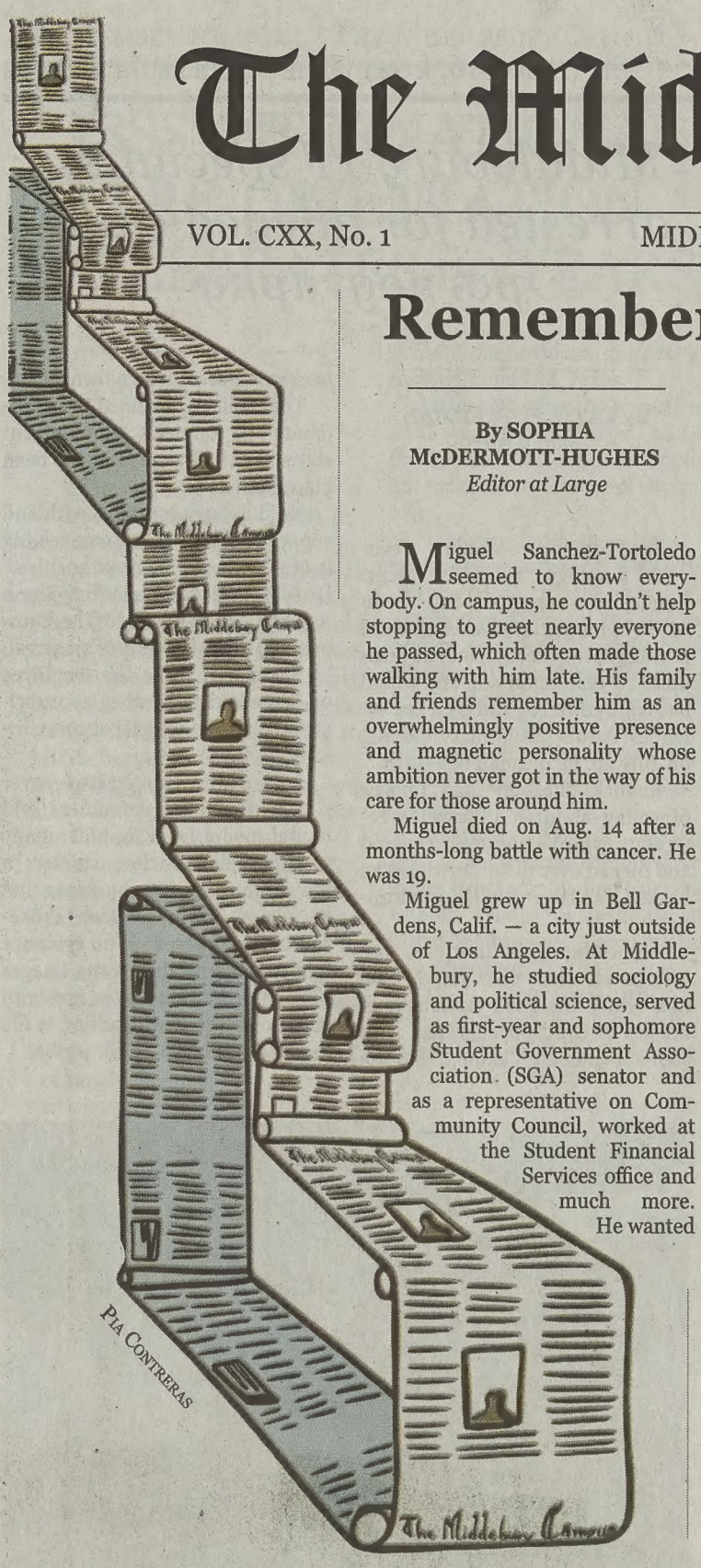
The Middlebury Campus

VOL. CXX, No. 1 | MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 | MIDDLEBURYCAMPUS.COM



Remembering Miguel Sanchez-Tortoledo '23

By SOPHIA McDERMOTT-HUGHES
Editor at Large

Miguel Sanchez-Tortoledo seemed to know everybody. On campus, he couldn't help stopping to greet nearly everyone he passed, which often made those walking with him late. His family and friends remember him as an overwhelmingly positive presence and magnetic personality whose ambition never got in the way of his care for those around him.

Miguel died on Aug. 14 after a months-long battle with cancer. He was 19.

Miguel grew up in Bell Gardens, Calif. — a city just outside of Los Angeles. At Middlebury, he studied sociology and political science, served as first-year and sophomore Student Government Association (SGA) senator and as a representative on Community Council, worked at the Student Financial Services office and much more. He wanted to be involved in everything, and he gave his all to everything he did.

His mother, Juana Tortoledo, always knew that Miguel would be the first in their family to go to college. He came from a low-income, immigrant household, and he was determined to give his parents a better life. He told his mother, "When I get rich and have a good job, I'm going to buy you a house... I'm going to help all my family and my community."

Miguel was always sure of himself. After joining the cheerleading squad in junior high, he refused to pay credence to those around him who teased him saying that cheerleading was for girls and that he should quit. His mother remembers him telling her, "I'm going to stay [on the team] because I know who I am, and I know what I want and I know I can do it."

Miguel attended Bell Gardens Senior High School, where he served as the Associated Student Body (ASB) class president his first three years and ASB president as a senior. He received the presidential volunteer service award four times for completing 600 hours of community service each year. In addition to juggling multiple part time jobs, he led the marching band as a horn sergeant. During breaks in the long practices, he worked on his college applications under his tuba.

"He was never supposed to stay in Bell Gardens," his friend since middle school, Emily Galdamez, said. "He was always made for much bigger things."

After winning several scholarships, including a $20,000 Coca-Cola Scholarship, Miguel threw himself into life at Middlebury. He scored a job at the Student Financial Services office off of one conversation with Associate Vice President Kim Downs-Burns during orientation. She knew instantly that he would put students coming into the office for difficult conversations at ease. He went above and beyond his job description and took every opportunity to question the school's policies and advocate for his peers.

COURTESY PHOTO

His greatest passion at Middlebury was SGA, and he was committed to making the college better for all students. He tried to meet as many as he could so that he could best serve their needs. And once he set his mind to do something, he made it happen no matter what. After overhearing students complaining about having to fill their water bottles from the bathroom sink in Stewart Hall, his first-year dorm, he organized to get water bottle refilling stations installed soon after.

"He never did things for himself," Melisa Gurkan '23.5 said. "Anything that he did, he did it with a purpose, and he did it for other people."

In class, Miguel was animated by

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Facing over-enrollment, Middlebury adds satellite housing at Bread Loaf, the Marriott and Inn on the Green

By IDEAL DOWLING
Editor at Large

For the first time in history, Middlebury will house undergraduates at the Bread Loaf campus to accommodate some of the more than 300 extra students enrolled at the college this fall. The college also purchased the Inn on the Green in August and arranged several rooms at the Marriott Hotel on Court Street to house students during the semester.

Disruptions from the Covid-19 pandemic led to a drastic increase in the college's student population. This fall, several hundred students returned after taking time off during the 2020-21 academic year, approximately 150 more students remained on campus who would typically have been abroad, and high enrollment in the first-year class brought the student body to more than 2,800.

After exhausting campus dorm spaces and allowing all upperclassmen who applied to live off-campus, additional rooms were still needed to house students. Residential Life assigned 63 students to Bread Loaf and an additional 20 to the Inn on the Green, which the college intends to use for student housing over the next three years. Another 15 students will reside in the Marriott Hotel, according to AJ Place, associate dean of students. The decision to reserve 33 Adirondack View and 220 College Street as quarantine and emergency use spaces further limited on-campus housing options.

The college announced the new Bread Loaf housing option via email July 15, presenting it as a "unique opportunity for juniors and seniors" and an "intentional community."

Middlebury initially tried to incentivize students to volunteer to live at Bread Loaf by offering a $1,500 room and dining credit to Bread Loaf residents. However, the incentives were later expanded to 50% off room and board costs, an advanced housing selection draw for fall 2022, free ski equipment rentals and passes to the Snow Bowl and Rikert Nordic Center, complimentary laundry service and a faculty/staff parking pass to allow parking anywhere on campus aside from ADA-only spaces.

"After further consideration and conferring with some student groups, we decided to offer a more significant incentive to draw more applicants," Place said. He also said the costs of housing students at Bread Loaf would exceed any revenue from extra tuition but could not offer more specific estimates.

Only 22 students elected to live at Bread Loaf, while another 41 had no other choice due to a late housing draw time slot. The Marriott residents will receive the same discounted room and board as the Bread Loaf students, but those at Inn on the Green will not.

"We got to Middlebury expecting to have a Middlebury experience, paying to have a Middlebury experience, and not being a part of campus life and having a room on campus is in no way that experience," Sam Lipin '23.5 said. Lipin was assigned involuntarily to live at Bread Loaf.

For Lipin, the college's incentives are insufficient compensation for the social and academic

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ABIGAIL CHANG/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Middlebury purchased the Inn on the Green to house students after the college enrolled hundreds more students than usual this semester.

NICK GARBER/FILE PHOTO

Middlebury will hold two commencement ceremonies this May, one for the class of 2022 and one for the class of 2020.

COLLEGE TO HOST TWO COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES MAY 2022

By CHARLIE KEOHANE
Editor at Large

Middlebury will hold commencement ceremonies for both the class of 2022 and the class of 2020 this upcoming May.

Graduates from the class of 2020 will return for an in-person commencement after their initial graduation ceremony in spring 2020 was moved online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Members of the class of 2020.5, who were given an impromptu Feb graduation in Nov. 2020 after new Covid-19 gathering restrictions were put in place by the Vermont government, will be invited to join as well.

The class of 2022 will celebrate commencement on Sunday, May 29, while the classes of 2020 and 2020.5 will commence the following Tuesday, May 31. There will be two commencement speakers — one for the class of 2022, who has yet to be announced. Jason Collins, the first openly gay NBA player, is slated to speak at the ceremony for the classes of 2020 and 2020.5.

There is some confusion over why the make-up commencement will be on a Tuesday, two days after the ceremony for the class of 2022. A significant consideration for the ceremony being on Tuesday was consideration for staff, according to Jennifer Erwin, Director of Event Management.

"Even in a normal year, [staff] work overtime during the month of June to prepare for the annual spring and summer campus events such as Reunion and the summer sessions of Bread Loaf and the Language Schools," Erwin said in an email to The Campus.

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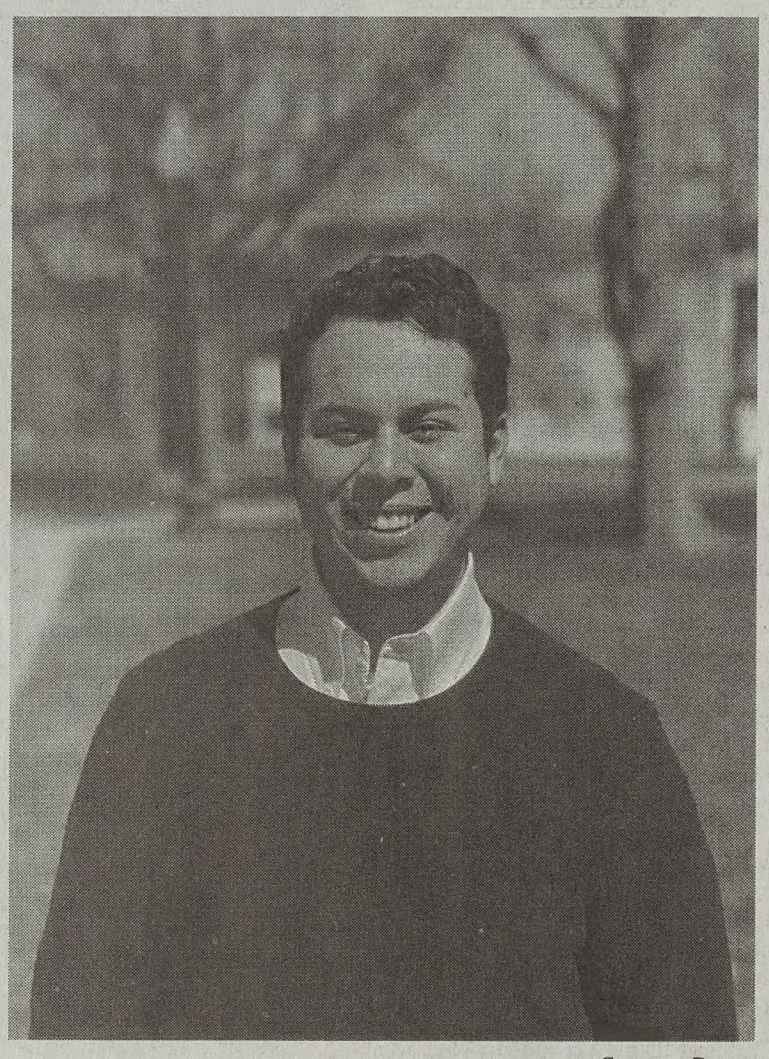
SGA President Roni Lezama '22 brings personal experience and big plans to student government

By CATHERINE McLAUGHLIN
News Editor



COURTESY PHOTO

When Roni Lezama '22 first stepped onto campus, he "looked around, wanting to hear Spanish in a place where most have spent their whole lives breathing and living English." Though he was unsure whether Middlebury was the kind of place where he — an only child of Mexican immigrants and one of many students from New York City — would have the opportunity to make a difference, that changed quickly.

Lezama did not come to Middlebury planning to run for president of the Student Government Association (SGA), but he has wanted to create change at Middlebury since his first year, animated by the drive to make white-oriented places more inviting and supportive for those traditionally excluded.

He went on to win the Spencer Prize in his first year, using his speech to describe the fear of not being accepted at Middlebury because of his heritage and bilingualism. Later, the work of SGA presidents like Nia Robinson '19 and Varsha Vijayakumar '20 and seeing women of color in the role early on in his time here set the tone for his image of SGA leadership.

"It gave me an initial impression of what SGA can do," Lezama said. "It made me think, 'there is a place here where I can make change.'"

He first became involved with SGA through the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee during Robinson's presidency, and was mentored by the committee's chair Kahari Blue '19. It was his close friend John Schurer '21, who would later become SGA president himself, who nudged Lezama to take on another leadership role.

"I still remember that day," Lezama said. "John got all serious and clapped his hand on my shoulder and said, 'I think you should run for Community Council Co-Chair.'" Lezama did run, won, and led the group of students, faculty, staff and administrators his sophomore year. Schurer then took on Lezama as one of his vice presidents after he was elected SGA president in spring 2020.

While inspired by the work of previous presidents and conscious of the continued challenges posed by Covid-19, Lezama is focused on the future.

"[Past presidents] showed me that it was more than OK to challenge and push the administration," Lezama said. "They are our gateway, but in the end it is our job to advocate for students."

Lezama said this balance is emblematic of his leadership style: being effective in his term will be about combining disruption and cooperation, needing the administration to listen and knowing when to make them. He admits to having sworn at the administration — on the record — in SGA meetings before. At the same time, a key goal on his senior bucket list is to have a coffee with each member of the Senior Leadership Group individually.

As president, he hopes to take the lessons learned from the pandemic and use them to set up systems of support for years to come. Though the pandemic revealed that the need for such support was far deeper and broader than was previously realized, to Lezama, these are not pandemic-specific issues.

"So much of what I have done with SGA in the past has been reactive," Lezama said. "It had to be. But I want to be proactive."

His first priority is to create a permanent substitute for the Student Emergency Fund established in 2020 to help with unexpected financial burdens of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"It was unbelievable to see how immense, and palpable, the need was for emergency funds once they were available," Lezama said.

He also wants to improve the accessibility and availability of on-campus mental health resources, and bolster the services tailored towards BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ students.

Lezama is ready for his administration to be a disruptive one, working to reshape Middlebury in deep but tangible ways to support the students who often do not get a seat at the table. DEI will be at the "front lines" of his administration, the lens through which every SGA department does its work, he said.

Sophia Lundberg '21.5, this semester's Community Council co-chair and a vice-president last year, describes Lezama as someone with both immense drive and humility, who values vulnerability in leadership and has a tireless work ethic.

"His determination to pursue justice and equity is informed by his own life circumstances," Lundberg said. He works constantly "in the hopes that it allows those who have been traditionally barred from comfortably enjoying their time here to access institutional resources and support with more ease."

President Laurie Patton expressed similar admiration.

"Roni Lezama is the real deal," Patton said in an email to The Campus. "He is relentless, as we all should be, about making Middlebury better. Because he also possesses an accurate sense of what it takes to build an institution, he begins by being open, and invites you to be on his team to get it done. This combination of traits is the source of his effectiveness as a leader."

Though Lezama jokes that he will have to apologize to his professors because "SGA is [his] life now," he has other hopes for his senior year. He wants to go out for coffee in town more (his order is an americano, black), and finally go to the Woodchuck Cidery. He also wants to take someone on the perfect date off campus that he has been planning for years.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Lezama poses with the students from his hall when he was a FYC during his sophomore year (top) and with the other memebers of the New York Posse after wining the Spencer Prize (bottom).

Middlebury IT specialist arrested for alleged child pornography

By KATIE FUTTERMAN
Staff Writer

Middlebury Senior Technology Specialist Scott Remick was arrested July 7 on federal charges of possesing child pornography. If convicted, he faces up to 10 years in prison and would be required to register as a sex offender. At his preliminary hearing on July 26, he pleaded not guilty.

Remick allegedly had images of young children in various restraints, which a hacker discovered and turned over to authorities. The hacker was later granted immunity.

According to authorities, the informant also discovered chat files which included exchanges of images of child pornography with someone named "Jeanie," who the hacker believed to be a teenager.

The college declined to comment on Remick's employment status, but he has most likely been placed on leave.

"Middlebury complies with and cooperates in all matters involving lawful requests from authorities," Director of Media Relations Sarah Ray said in an email to The Campus. "In the rare event of an arrest, we ordinarily place the employee on leave and take other appropriate steps while we gather more information."

Authorities confiscated over 100 hard drives, computers and digital media from Remick, many of which belong to the customers of the computer repair business that he owned, Vermont Geek. Prosecutors have presented no evidence that Remick produced any images himself or had direct contact with any producers. The deadline to file pretrial motions is in November.

COLLEGE TO HOST TWO COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES MAY 2022

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According to Erwin, the college will provide support for travel assistance, and more information will be released when available. There are also discussions underway regarding where to house members of the class of 2020(.5), with details likely to be available later in the fall.

Marisa Edmondson '20 is planning to return to campus for graduation, but is frustrated with the lack of communication surrounding senior week activities and housing.

"Even if only half the class comes back, that's still 300+ kids and their families. There aren't enough places to stay," Edmondson said. "I do feel like the college kind of forgot about us and has done a bad job at communicating with us about our belated ceremony."

Abby Okin '20 also plans on attending commencement.

"I want to go because I never really got to say goodbye to that part of my life," Okin said. "It's strange to live somewhere for four years and build a life there and then have to leave abruptly."

Erwin said she is excited to welcome the classes of 2020 and 2020.5 back to campus.

"We felt that hosting graduation as a short extension of the Memorial Day weekend, and giving notice a year in advance, was a way we could fulfill our promise to our students and to show staff the care and respect that our students themselves would want," Erwin said.

Edmondson hopes that the commencement ceremony will bring a sense of closure after a chaotic end to her on-campus senior year in March 2020. She also added that due to the pandemic and travel restrictions, she has not been able to see many of her classmates since their early departure from campus.

"I am excited to be able to celebrate with my friends and be back in Vermont," Edmondson said, "And I know my parents and family are excited to actually see me in a cap and gown walking across the stage."

Facing over-enrollment, Middlebury adds satellite housing at Bread Loaf, the Marriott and Inn on the Green

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costs of living at Bread Loaf. Further increasing Lipin's frustration is that he has only had about five weeks of normal campus life. He and other members of the class of 2023.5 living at Bread Loaf came to Midlebury in the spring of 2020 and have not yet experienced a full, normal semester on campus.

"The incentives to me are basically nothing. Honestly, it should probably be all of room and board off, and maybe even some of tuition," Lipin said.

Residential Life has worked to create the advertised "intentional community" at Bread Loaf by planning social and outdoor activities at the satellite campus, but isolation from the main campus and other obstacles have hampered efforts.

"Since the group of students living at Bread Loaf will be fairly small, we're expecting to help build a strong community for these students," Place said. "This will include programming that utilizes outdoor spaces and the resources that are abundant at Bread Loaf."

Bread Loaf students were promised an on-campus student lounge, but as of Sept. 14, the college is still working to identify and designate an on-campus space to serve as a lounge.

Another concern for Bread Loaf students is transportation between the campuses. Shuttles depart from Bread Loaf beginning at 6 a.m., and run every hour with a mid-morning and mid-afternoon break in service. The shuttle also stops at the Marriott before reaching Adirondack Circle (ADK), an estimated half hour after leaving Bread Loaf. On weeknights (Sunday through Wednesday), the final shuttle departs ADK for the Marriott and Bread Loaf at 11:30 p.m., and on weekends (Thursday through Saturday), the last time slot is extended to 1:30 a.m.

> "...Doucet remains optimistic about the success of Bread Loaf..."

Bread Loaf students will have full access to dining halls on the main campus, as well as a continental breakfast from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., dinner from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and grab-and-go options offered in the Bread Loaf dining hall. Four positions were added to the dining department to staff the new dining hall; two new hires and two previous employees from the main campus will work at Bread Loaf, according to Executive Director of Food Service Operations Dan Detora. The dining department currently has 12 vacant positions.

Despite the obstacles, Place and Dean of Students Derek Doucet remain optimistic about the success of Bread Loaf.

"We know that there are some inconveniences to the location," Place and Doucet said in an email to The Campus. "But we are confident this group will find the experience of living at the Bread Loaf campus rewarding."

Editor's Note: Sam Lipin '23.5 is a Sports Editor for The Campus

ISSS INTERNATIONAL PRE-ORIENTATION CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

By ROYA TOURAN
News Editor

International Student & Scholar Services' (ISSS) International Pre-Orientation, formerly known as International Early Arrival, celebrated its 20th year of programming this summer with the arrival of the biggest international class Middlebury has seen to date. For many international students traveling to Middlebury, the time is not only a transition into a new school, but also a new country, schooling system and culture.

This fall, the college enrolled around 330 international students — around 50–60 more than usual — representing over 70 countries. The group of international students included members of the class of 2025, members of the class of 2024 who studied remotely in their first year, exchange students, U.S. citizens living abroad and international transfer students. The program ran from Sept. 2 to Sept. 6, after which international students joined the rest of the first-year class for the start of MiddView Orientation.

> "...the college enrolled 330 international students — around 50-60 more than usual..."

Before the first international student orientation was held in 2001, international students arrived at the same time as U.S. students and had to juggle their regular orientation schedule with extra required sessions for students with a visa status.

The start of International Pre-Orientation, with the help of Director of ISSS Kathy Foley, gave new students the opportunity to meet other international students while becoming familiar with campus resources. Pre-Orientation sessions also covered specific topics that affect international students, such as U.S. visa status, student employment, cultural adjustment and U.S. taxes.

Arthur Martins '22.5, early arrival student coordinator, said he thinks Pre-Orientation is important for creating a sense of community.

"It's very hard and jarring to travel and to arrive at a different culture alone in the middle of Vermont which is so isolated and foreign to a lot of people," said Martins. "It's important to have a space where you can acclimatize and foster a sense of community with people with similar backgrounds. There's a sense of solidarity."

Program Arrival Leaders (PALs) helped run the pre-orientation program, leading their own smaller groups to facilitate different icebreakers, conversations and activities.

"If I came here and was dropped into U.S. culture without this week, I think I would have had a lot of problems just immersing myself in friendships and getting social cues," PAL Abed Abbas '24 said. "Orientation prepares you just for that cultural shock."

Sessions regarding visa status and employment opportunities were held throughout the week, informing students about documentation and maintaining their status in the U.S., as well as talks on academics and U.S. culture. Along with the more informative programming, there were also activities designed to build community, including a trivia night, bonfire and dance party at the Kirk Alumni Center.

"When they have identities beyond U.S. borders and U.S. culture... there's just so many different complexities to that, and [Pre-Orientation is] just simply space to sit in that, arrive, and start to explore, and then also help students get their bearings on resources and just what it's like to be in Vermont," Assistant Director of ISSS Christy Fry said.

Pre-Orientation continues to be a space for students from all over the world to begin grounding themselves in the Middlebury community.

"It helps people get their mind, body and spirit in the right place and time zone," Foley said. "And then they can be ready to go with everything else that's to come."

Testing reveals four Covid-19 cases at summer language schools

By BRINLEA LA BARGE
News Editor

Two students and two employees at the Middlebury Language Schools tested positive for Covid-19 near the end of the college's seven-week summer program, prompting tighter restrictions for those staying on campus. Both students remained in self-isolation on campus, the college announced on Aug. 13, while positive employee cases recovered off campus.

Rumors began to circulate around Thursday, Aug. 12, just two days before many students planned to leave campus. Students in different language programs received conflicting information about the source and location of the outbreak, while some were led to believe that canceled classes were a result of scheduling conflicts, according to Sydney Armor '24, who attended the German Language School over the summer.

"I did have a friend in [another language school] who was texting me and said, 'All of my classes got canceled, but they didn't tell us why,'" Armor said. "They just said it was due to 'scheduling conflicts.' And then I explained to her what I had heard, and then she didn't hear the truth from her school until about two days later."

Ben Beese '21.5, also a member of the German school this summer, said the program's administration communicated some information about Covid-19 exposure and event cancellations on Thursday afternoon.

> Two students and two employees at the Middlebury Language Schools tested positive for Covid-19

"Most information we were working with were [essentially] rumors," Beese said in an email to The Campus. "We heard bits and pieces of info from admins as we ran into them outside but nothing concrete. It sounded like the students might have been from the Spanish program. Maybe they were unvaccinated."

Until August 13, when the college updated face covering requirements and visitor policies via email, vaccinated students were not required to wear masks in any setting.

According to Beese, masks and Covid-19 guidelines were loosely enforced, especially after arrival testing yielded zero positive results. All students were required to be vaccinated before or during the summer session, and vaccinated students were not tested during the summer.

Meanwhile, student research assistants and lab workers relied on their peers for any information they could gather. Hira Zeeshan '22, who studied in a neuroscience lab on campus this summer, said she heard about the two active Covid-19 cases from a group of peers.

> "'The school didn't inform us until a few days later when they started implementing Covid restrictions...'"

"I first learned about the Covid outbreak amongst language school students from my fellow RAs," Zeeshan said. "The school didn't inform us until a few days later when they started implementing Covid restrictions in the dining halls and in buildings."

Zeeshan said that many language school students and research assistants did not mix over the summer, instead forming their own factions within the school. She expressed disappointment with some language schools students' failure to respect Covid-19 protocols. She also suggested that the guidelines for social gatherings among research assistants seemed to be undefined.

"One thing, however, that we were unclear about was that [sic] whether research assistants could have small gatherings, because they were common for language school students," Zeeshan said. "There was a strong divide between the language school students and the research assistants... RAs were quite disappointed with language school students because we were respectful of the Covid guidelines but had to adjust to this change after a summer of not wearing face coverings."

Before the outbreak, students experienced a "near-normal" summer session, thanks to a high vaccination rate among students in the language programs and lower rates of infection near Middlebury.

"We were going in town, having parties, masks were just about nowhere to be seen. It was great, and I think everyone felt pretty safe," Beese said. "We weren't being tested regularly — after all, we all thought the vaccines were going to prevent infection until Delta took off this summer."

In the final weeks of the session, the college offered testing to students who needed to show a negative PCR test for international flights, but did not provide universal testing for vaccinated students. Some language schools directors instead encouraged their students to receive testing at a site in town, but there were few available appointments before groups were scheduled to depart on Aug. 13 and 14.

As the college commences what seems to be a more "normal" fall semester thus far — with in-person classes, traditional dining hall operations and sports competitions — student concerns about Covid-19 cases and the spread of the Delta variant linger.

"It was amazing to be back to normal," Beese said. "Hearing that there were [Covid] cases on campus then and that we should be masking and distancing, etc, made it feel like we'd been too optimistic... So realizing that there was a chink in our utopia was a big wake-up call, and I think we were unsure of what that meant for us personally, for the fall and for the pandemic in general."

Remembering Miguel Sanchez-Tortoledo '23

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questions of how he could practically improve his community and city, rather than abstract theories. His career ambitions changed often, but they were always oriented towards public service — he had recently settled on working in politics and law.

"He had a vision that he wanted to contribute to make things better," Associate Professor of Sociology Linus Owens, Miguel's advisor, said. "If we're going to get anywhere, we'll need people like him and people inspired by what he did in his life and the courage with which he faced such an unfathomable thing to happen to someone so young."

Even after moving across the country, Miguel remained closely connected to his family and carried his pride and love for them wherever he went. His first year, he returned from winter break with carefully-wrapped packages of his mother's tamales packed in his suitcase, which he proudly gave out to all his friends.

"Everything he did was to make his parents proud," his high school friend, Joel Leyva, said. "I think that was what made him the proudest, and I think that's what allowed him to be at peace towards the end, knowing that he made his parents proud."

As committed as Miguel was to his family, school and future, he never took life too seriously. His friends disagree about how his laugh sounded — Eric Burchill '23 said it was a deep belly laugh and Gurkan remembers it as fast and high pitched — but they all say it rang out often.

He was deeply devoted to his friends. When Leyva was bedridden alone at home, recovering from a surgery, running out of money for food and too proud to tell his parents that he needed help, Miguel showed up at his doorstep unprompted with bags full of groceries. And when Miguel found out that Adam Maguire '23 hadn't celebrated his birthday much growing up, he tracked down Maguire's friends from home to plan a party for him.

Miguel spent much of his time with friends, exploring Vermont and bringing them along on spontaneous visits to restaurants and spots he found online. He belted along to Adele, Taylor Swift and Olivia Rodrigo with unabashed enthusiasm, if not talent, and dominated the dance floor at parties when "Shake It Off" came over the speakers.

In his rare moments of free time, he liked to clean and reorganize the 150 knives he kept cloth-wrapped and stored in a black duffel bag in his closet to sell for his side job as a knife salesman where he set records for most sales in his first few months.

On quiet mornings, he sat in the back corner of Proctor lounge, facing the door to the dining hall so that he could greet people as they came through and pull them in to share a conversation or breakfast with him.

His friends remember him as unshakably positive, even after he was diagnosed with cancer in March and had to return to Los Angeles for treatment. While undergoing 52 rounds of chemotherapy, he was determined to finish the semester and keep up with his job.

Courtesy Photo

Courtesy Photo
Miguel Sanchez-Tortoledo and his mother, Juana Tortoledo.

Throughout his illness, Miguel never lost hope. He was elected junior SGA senator from his hospital bed. From there, he applied to scholarships, plotted his eventual run for SGA president and shared his excitement about returning to Middlebury in the fall and possibly studying abroad in Spain.

He also never lost his joy or his adventurous spirit. Whenever he got sick of hospital food, he would pull out his IV, tape down the needle to stop the bleeding and hit the road with his friends to visit his favorite restaurants, more often than not Dave's Hot Chicken.

On June 12, Miguel fell into a coma, just two treatments shy of completing his chemotherapy. He died nine weeks later, on Aug. 14, less than two weeks before his 20th birthday.

Miguel is survived by his mother, Juana Tortoledo, father, Miguel Sanchez and brothers, Sebastian, 17, and Kevin, 31, but he touched many more people. A gofundme organized to cover his medical and funeral expenses gathered more than 1,200 donations.

The college is planning an event to celebrate Miguel's life early this fall.

Editor's note: Eric Burchill '23 is a Copy Editor for The Campus.

Bernie Sanders talks climate, economy at Middlebury rally

By JACK SUMMERSBY
Local Editor

After a two-year hiatus, Senator Bernie Sanders returned to the annual Labor Day Rally on Middlebury's Town Green last Monday, Sept. 6. The event also included speeches from Congressman Peter Welch, Bill McKibben, Dr. Deborah Richter, Iris Hsiang, and Jubilee McGill.

The speakers highlighted the current challenges that Vermont faces, from labor shortages to rising healthcare costs.

Middlebury was the final stop on Monday for Sanders, who also held meetings in Springfield, Newport, St. Johnsbury, and Brattleboro earlier in the weekend.

"I didn't know there were this many people in Middlebury," Sanders joked as he took the stage.

Sanders spoke to a large crowd of community members, touching on climate change, Covid-19, housing issues, and childcare and education costs. The senator accordingly emphasized the current Democratic legislative agenda, as the party looks to pass a $3.5 trillion spending plan with razor-thin majorities in Congress.

"We have issue after issue after issue," Sanders said. "We must look these problems in the eyes, and not only can we solve them, [but] we can move this country and our world to a much better place."

Sanders spoke first on the American Rescue Plan, which was passed in March to address economic fallout from Covid-19. Sanders discussed the resulting decline in poverty and other points of progress, emphasizing the persistence of small businesses like those that line Middlebury's downtown.

Sanders also addressed current work in Congress, including moving forward with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework (BIF) and other initiatives supported by President Biden.

Some of the other speakers at the rally addressed one of the issues closely tied to Sanders platform: climate change.

Bill McKibben, a distinguished scholar at Middlebury College, then praised Sen. Sanders and credited his 2016 presidential bid for awakening a progressive reckoning in the country.

Iris Hsiang, a youth member of Vermont's climate council and high school student, delivered a speech that stressed the intersectionality within climate change issues and the need to combat those challenges individually in order to combat climate change as a whole.

Other Side of the Line: Proctor Revisited

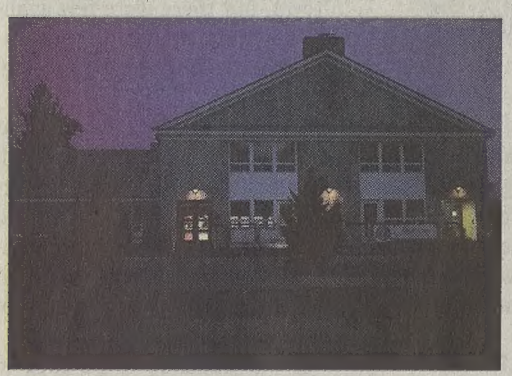
By FLORENCE WU
Local Editor

Most of the campus dreams on with a few more hours of sleep to spare at 6 a.m. But in Proctor dining hall, the kitchen is up and running for the day. Coming through the backdoor, Wayne, the truck driver, was busy moving in boxes of food supplies. Most staff did not know who I was or what I was doing there but greeted me with a smile and a "good morning" nevertheless.

With all dining halls severely short on staff, there is only one chef on duty at a time, making them responsible for cooking breakfast for half of the campus. On the first day of class, the same mix of expectation and uncertainty that permeated the student body was also shared by dining hall staff.

Downstairs, the preparation for lunch is underway.

Wayne, the truck driver, is unloading boxes of food supplies into the kitchen.



Proctor at 5:57AM, the time most of the staff arrive for work.

Preparing for breakfast on the first day of class.

At the bake shop, the radio played the popular hits while Andrew and Peter worked on the desserts.

Peter waved me in and told me to take a picture of the cookie trays. "Guess how many?" He grinned.

"A hundred?"

"125 per tray," he looked at me smugly. "The left one goes to Atwater and the right one to Ross. We make over 2000 cookies a day."

Christina Sheldrick, the cook on duty, carried a practical, down-to-earth attitude. She spoke loudly and was easy to talk to. Born in Middlebury, Christina has been at the college since 2003. She started out as a dish washer and worked her way up.

When I asked her how the college has changed over the years, she raised her eyebrows and gave me a smirk. "Oh it changed for sure, but I would rather not talk about that."

Every morning, at 3 a.m., Christina wakes up and prepares lunch for her two children, ages three and six. She gets them out of the house by 4:30 a.m. and drives them to her mother-in-law, who takes them to school later. She comes to Proctor at 5:30 a.m.

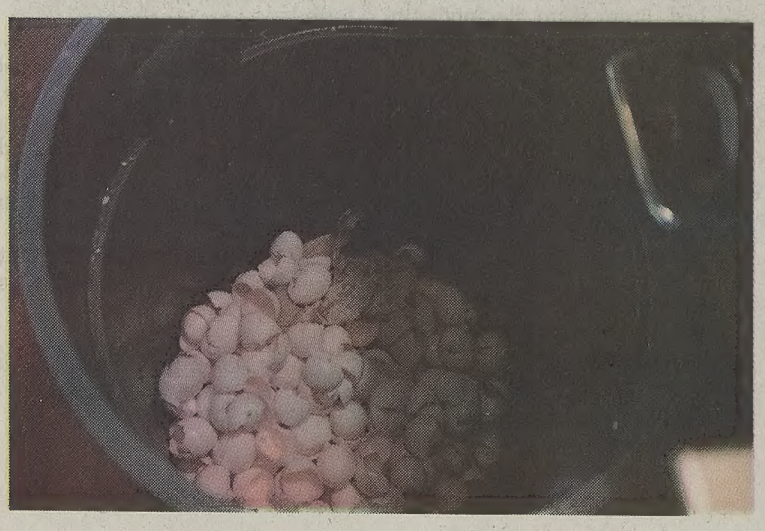
"What time do you go to bed?" I asked, as someone who lives by eight hours of sleep per day.

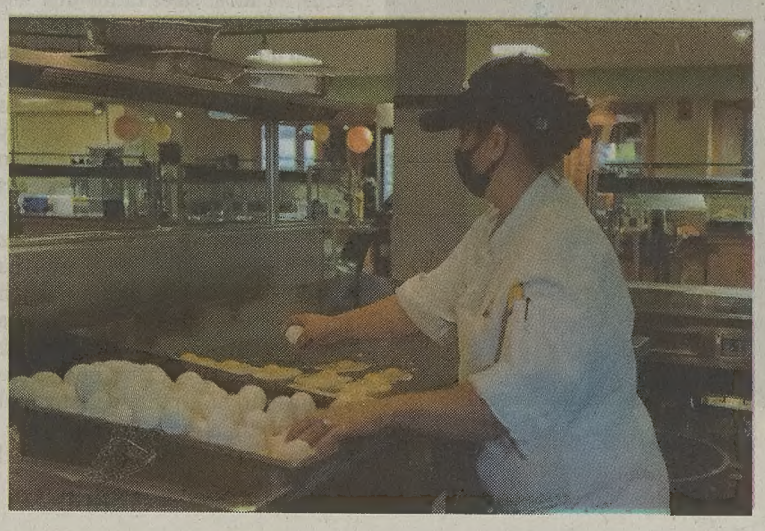
"10 to 11 p.m.," she said.

I did a little subtraction: four to five hours. "That's not a lot of sleep," I said.

"It's not," she agreed. "But you get used to running on little sleep."

On the first day of school, the main breakfast menu had hash browns, french toast, and fried eggs. Christina said the fried eggs are the most labor-intensive, because thousands of eggs have to be hand-cracked onto the frying pan. When scrambled eggs are on the menu, a machine just cracks a dozen at once and pours out liquid eggs.





"Time to take the fried eggs off the menu," I half-joked (I like fried eggs).

"Yeah, but you guys will complain," she gave me a cheeky grin under her mask.

>> Story continues on Page 12

Middlebury Bridge and Rail Project Hits Substantial Completion

By BECCA AMEN
Senior Local Editor

As of Friday, Sept. 10, the Middlebury Bridge & Rail Project has officially hit the first milestone of its final stages, a phase called "substantial completion."

According to Jim Gish, the community liaison for the project, this phase is characterized by the Vermont Agency of Transportation's (VTrans) announcement that major construction in downtown Middlebury is finished. The workers onsite finished around 7:30 p.m. last Friday evening, at which point the VTrans engineer on the project declared the checkpoint met.

"There's still some visible activity in the area, but the kinds of disruption that we've seen over the last four years . . . That's all in the past now as we've turned the corner to the minor work that needs to be done to finish the project," Gish said.

A celebration of the end of the project, which took place on August 21, included the dedication of Middlebury's new Lazarus Park. The park is named after the Lazarus family, whose members were central figures of the Middlebury community for generations and ran a department store downtown for decades. Governor Phil Scott attended and conducted the official opening of the park, which included turning on the new fountain downtown for the first time.

"So much of my focus has been on construction, so it was nice to focus on the personalities and the community," Gish said.

Other new developments in the project include the opening of Printer's Alley, a roadway that connects Main Street and Marble Works that had been closed for four years, and the final touches to public spaces, including the new Triangle Park. The park combines hard space and green space, constituting a venue fit for concerts, town gatherings, and other events that will bring people downtown and encourage the patronage of local businesses.

"One by one, the town is returning to itself," Gish said. "It's great to see not only the people who live here walking around and admiring their downtown but people who are coming from out of state . . . just come here and marvel at their new downtown."

> "It's great to see ...the people who live here walking around and...people who are coming coming from out of state . . . come here and marvel at their new downtown."

The project was initiated in the summer of 2017, with the dismantling of two bridges downtown and their replacement with temporary structures. As such, the construction phase lasted for approximately four years. In that time, the project was delayed for a total of seven weeks at the start of the pandemic, after Gov. Scott declared a state of emergency. That delay changed the end date of the project from July 2021 to September that same year.

Another challenge that project managers have faced is the developing materials shortage in the construction industry. However, according to Gish, contractors at VTrans managed to work around the shortages without delaying the project further.

The construction of the Amtrak rail platform is not part of the Bridge & Rail Project and is expected to be completed by the end of the month. The town of Middlebury has already hired a contractor to work on landscaping and parking around the platform.

Amtrak is looking to introduce service from Middlebury to New York City's Penn station by the end of the first quarter of 2022, according to Gish.

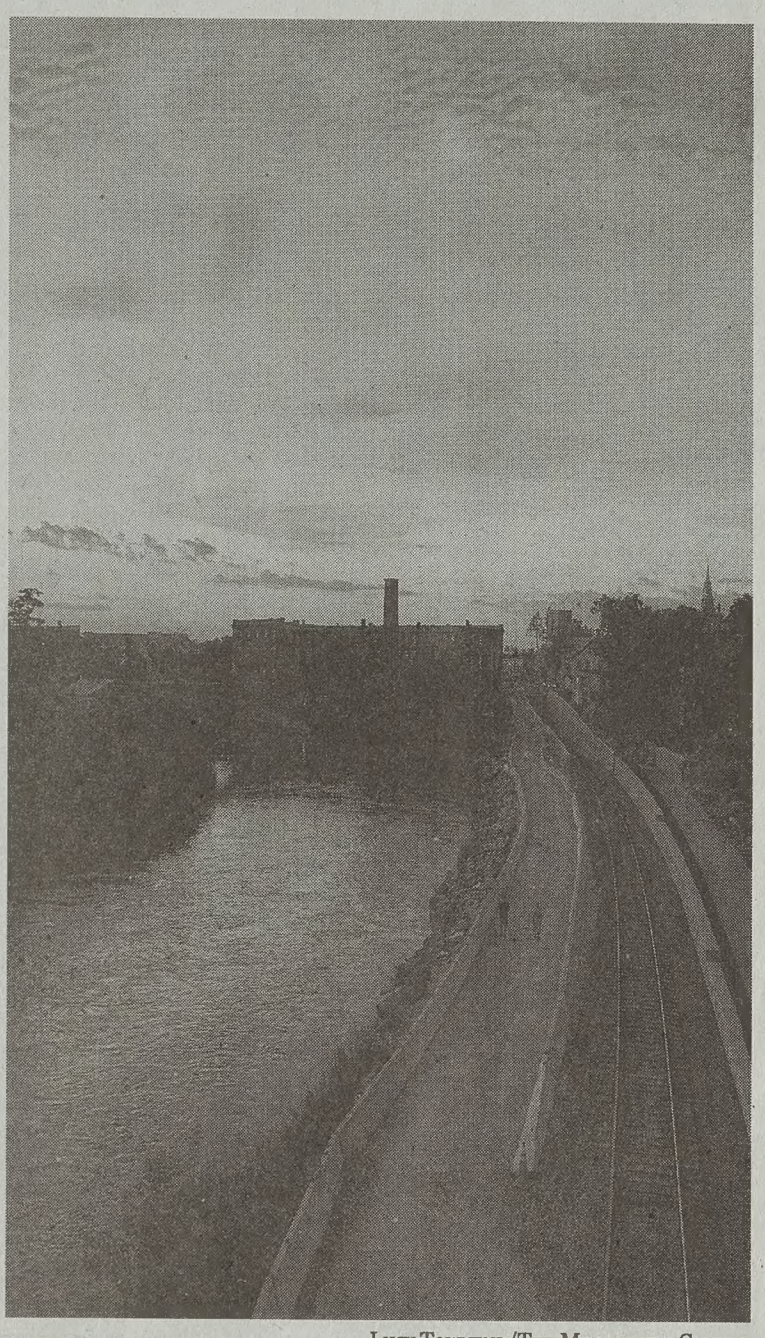
"I wouldn't be surprised if the same kind of materials shortages that we're seeing might impact the start date [for Amtrak service], and it might run into summer," Gish said.

Although Gish is optimistic about the economic benefits of the project, he also acknowledged that the past five years have been challenging for local businesses and for those who travel through downtown to get to work and school. Construction disrupted both foot and vehicle traffic patterns, and the difficulties that local businesses faced were also compounded by the pandemic.

"Now that we're out the other side, it just shows the strength and resilience of our community," Gish said.

Gish noted that businesses in Middlebury's downtown have been looking forward to the arrival of college students this fall and that part of that excitement stems from the success of the college's Covid-19 policies last year, which made for low incidence of cases and campus spread.

"The stores all have these signs posted that say, 'Welcome back. We're so happy to have you here,'" Gish said. "And that's directed at the students . . . I thought that was a nice touch, to welcome you all back during what's a challenging time for [students] as well as for us."



LUCY TOWNEND/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The next phase of the Bridge & Rail Project will be marked by the completion of minor corrections, like sealing cracks in sidewalks and lining parking spaces. Gish estimated that this phase would take place over the next couple weeks.

New Businesses Secure Space on Merchants Row

By EMILY HOGAN
Layout Editor

Three new businesses have arrived on Merchants Row in downtown Middlebury, including the Little Seed Coffee, new locations for Berkshire Hathaway Realty - Vermont Realty Group and the food spot Juice Amour, which was previously located in East Middlebury.

Merchants Row's central location provides its shops with heavy foot traffic, which has become even more important for local businesses during the ongoing economic downturn. Shops on Merchants Row are also frequented by college students, since the street is within walking distance of campus, making the location a significant draw for new establishments.

Little Seed Coffee occupies 24 Merchants Row, and its owners Anthony and Maggie Gerakos are avid coffee roasters who lived in Brooklyn just last year. The couple began roasting coffee beans a few years ago on a small sample roaster, a move which set plans in motion to launch a coffee shop.

Maggie Gerakos indicated that the pandemic sped up the timeline of opening Little Seed Coffee but ultimately expressed that it has paid off.

"We really loved the community of Middlebury and how supportive everyone has been here," she said.

While Little Seed Coffee does not officially open until Oct. 2, it is already buzzing with pre-opening activity. As the Gerakoses prepare each day by hiring new employees, working with contractors, amassing a variety of coffee beans and creating merchandise, they make an effort to embrace the locals who walk by.

"We've had people in the neighborhood sort of wandering around . . . we'd be around to answer them as best as possible about what we're planning to do," Anthony Gerakos said.

"We're hoping [Little Seed] will be a really nice spot for the community of Middlebury," Maggie Gerakos said.

The location has two floors, and the Gerakos plan to use each space differently. The couple intends to fill the upstairs space with music, and customers will be able to chat and purchase coffee there. The downstairs will have room for two long communal tables and is meant to be a quiet space where students and working professionals can gather.

The couple hopes to do community outreach through their "You Sip, We Give" program. This program will involve donating 5% of the shop's quarterly proceeds to small nonprofits based in the communities that their beans originate from. Since Little Seed Coffee plans to change the coffee beans it offers every few months, the Gerakos plan to give back to multiple communities.

"That way, we can support not only the [coffee] farmers but their communities at large," Maggie Gerakos said.

At 32 Merchants Row, Brokers Neil and Sue Mackey partnered with several real estate agents to open a branch of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices - Vermont Realty Group in mid-July.

Berkshire Hathaway - Vermont Realty Group has gone through several changes throughout its almost fifty-year history in Vermont. Started in 1972 by Jack Russell in his home in Georgia, Vermont, the group was originally called Jack Associates and was part of the Century 21 franchise. In March 2020, the group changed its name to Vermont Realty Group and switched to partner with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices.

"Having been with the Century 21 franchise since the inception of [Jack Associates], it was somewhat of a difficult decision," said Neil Mackey. "I think [the Russells] have been very pleased with the change."

Mackey himself started his own real estate company in Middlebury in 1986, which was later acquired by Jack Associates in the early 2000s.

Over the course of the pandemic, real estate has been subject to plenty of changes and adjustments. Due to travel restrictions and quarantine requirements, some out-of-state buyers have been unable to look at properties in person, instead relying on associates at Berkshire Hathaway to do video tours of properties. These changes have also led to many out of staters buying property in Middlebury and the greater state of Vermont.

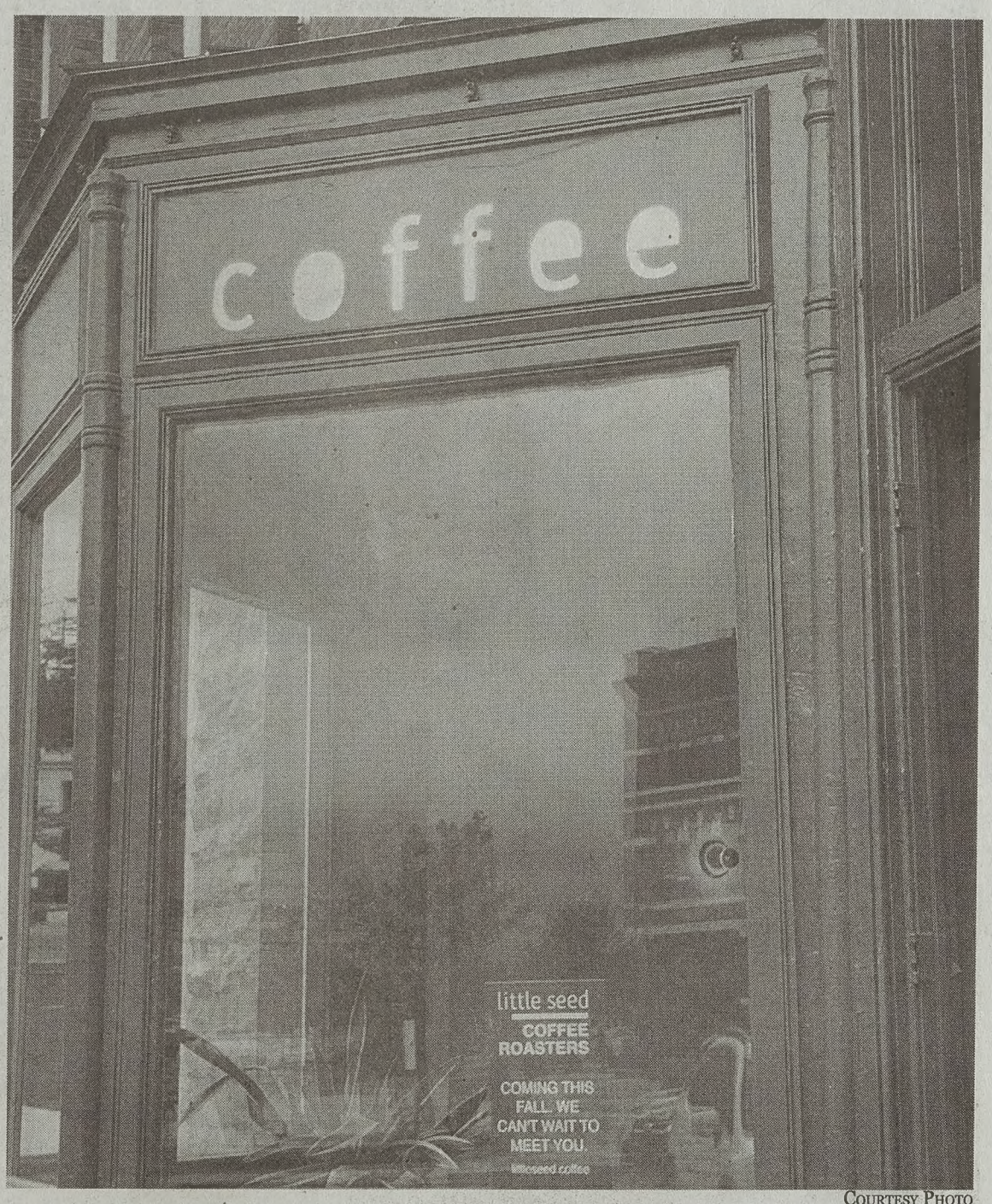
"We're seeing a tremendous influx of out-of-state people coming in and buying property in Vermont right now," Mackey said.

Although Juice Amour currently has a store in Middlebury on Route 7, owner Sheri Bedard is moving her Middlebury store to a more downtown location at 16 Merchants Row. Bedard opened the business with her father, Jack Bedard.

Juice Amour serves juices, smoothies and vegan food, which, according to the Addison Independent, aligns with Bedard's values, as she is a vegan. According to Juice Amour's website, "creating nutritious, delicious, beautiful and accessible food to our community is at the core of everything we do."

The business buys their produce from organic farmers in Vermont, and juices are served and delivered in glass jars that can be reused when brought back into the shop. Juice Amour also uses "100% compostable single use items" to eliminate waste and plastic usage, according to its website. Bedard hopes to open Juice Amour's new location on Merchants Row on Oct. 1, the Addison County Independent reported.

The three businesses join six others that are set to open their doors in Middlebury within the next year, including an ice cream parlor, a climbing gym and an art supply store.



COURTESY PHOTO

Little Seed Coffee on 24 Merchants Row will officially open on October 2nd.

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The Middlebury Campus

It's Time to Stop Pretending and Start Testing

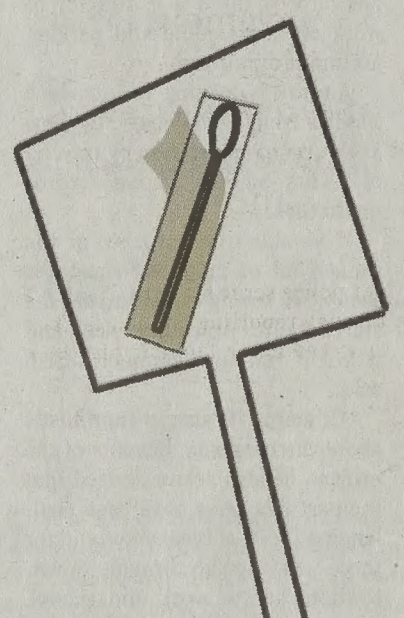
editorial

The editorial represents the opinion of the Middlebury Campus editorial board.

Since the start of the academic year, Colby has had 11 Covid-19 cases, Amherst has had 23, and Bowdoin has had 42. Tufts has had 25 this week alone, and a significant outbreak at Connecticut College resulted in 180 positives since students returned to campus. And while we too like to believe that Vermont is a magical, mountainous utopia where Covid-19 has ceased to exist, we also know that this is not the case. President Patton herself acknowledged in her fall welcome email that this semester does not offer "the COVID-free return that we had hoped for."

As Middlebury students, we are currently suspended between the refreshing return to normalcy and the nauseating worry that there could be invisible cases piling up. Unlike the aforementioned schools that are testing their student body at least once — if not twice — weekly, we truly don't know when our blissful sense of denial may come to a grinding halt.

The spread of the Delta variant and the subsequent breakthrough cases late this summer caught many of us off guard, and we as a board acknowledge that Middlebury may not have anticipated the need to test all 2,800+ of us. However, this need is now starkly apparent. Hundreds of maskless students crammed into Proctor dining hall like sardines, residential halls filled beyond their usual capacity and students all but touching shoulders in classrooms are only some of the scenes on campus this week that ultimately necessitate routine testing.



SABRINA TEMPLETON

What makes this difficult is that we're grateful for these same moments. We missed cramming 15 people at one table, piling into our friends' dorm rooms and hearing the chatter of our classmates by our side. But we want these practices to be sustainable. Without testing, and without consistent and clear messaging, they're far from it. At the end of the day, students aren't going to be dissuaded from going to Atwater mosh pits if they know they have the same chance of being exposed on chicken parm night.

Inherent contradictions like these only make it harder for students to know which rules to follow. Spaces like the college store and the gym have maintained capacity limits while most other space guidelines have dissolved. Vaccinated international students coming from low risk areas were tested several times on arrival, but students hailing from high exposure domestic regions were not. Some students report not being asked for their PCR test upon arrival, while others expressed frustration that they could not acquire an arrival test on campus if they couldn't receive one elsewhere for free. Although guests are restricted from accessing campus, students have no limits on travel or interactions they can have outside of Middlebury.

All of this begs the question: why has Middlebury seemingly thrown in the towel when it comes to preventing community spread? As can be seen at peer institutions with similarly high vaccination rates, relying on those numbers isn't enough. Our lack of testing also renders members of our community even more vulnerable — such as immunocompromised individuals and the children of faculty and staff under 12, for whom the risk of becoming seriously sick remains evident.

We're not asking for campus to be put under draconian guidelines. Rather, we want to see systems and structures enacted so that our "normal" college experience — whatever that has come to mean — can remain feasible. As far as we've seen, there doesn't seem to be any sort of Plan B in regard to quarantine housing or accommodating sick students. Our best shot at a safe and fulfilling semester means making Plan A work equitably and realistically.

Ultimately, we as students are warned to be careful but are not given the resources to do so. And we know that if the shit hits the fan, we'll be the first to shoulder the blame. Safety measures like testing may be financially or logistically inconvenient, but simply pretending like we don't need them anymore is not the answer.

It's far past time to start testing if we care at all about preserving these delicate moments of authentic college life — and the lives of our most vulnerable community members. If we look to peer institutions for clues, the reality is that there are almost certainly cases on campus as we speak — it's now up to Middlebury to decide how many there will be. We're not disposable.

This time, on paper

notes from the desk

*Editor in Chief **Riley Board '22**, Managing Editor **Lucy Townend '22** and Managing Editor **Abigail Chang '23** make up the executive team of The Campus.*

It's been 533 days since we last printed an issue of our newspaper. It's been 535 days since we were told that we were being sent home from campus due to the pandemic; it's been 535 days since we gathered in our basement office to work on publishing an issue that looked very different than it did mere hours earlier. It's been 537 days since we sat in a circle outside of our office, munching on Green Peppers pizza, while we discussed an emerging pandemic that seemed miles away from our small Vermont campus.

In the past 533 days, we've continued to write, even while scattered across the globe. We've advocated for a safer environment for students and fairer wages for staff. We've written about all of the ways that Covid-19 has touched student life, and community life, at and away from Middlebury.

Despite navigating lives marked by isolation, uncertainty and sometimes grief, we've still managed to put out a paper each week.

And now, we return to print.

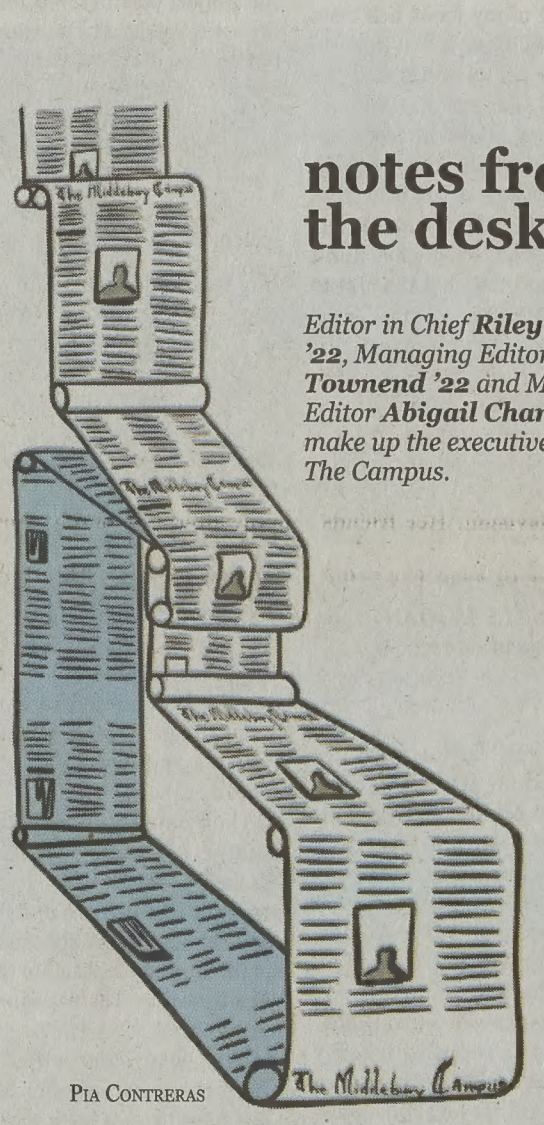
Among the writers of this piece, one of us has never edited a print copy of our paper. Our staff is full of new faces, the majority of whom entered our office this past week for the first time. And even for some of our more seasoned staff, this fall was the first time they stepped foot in our humble basement office.

It's been a week of introductions, reunifications, and a cautious sense of normalcy, even as many editors are unaware of what "normal" is. While our paper has persisted online, the return to print represents a new era of The Campus, but in a familiar form.

This print paper may feel like just a collection of words and photos, but our return to print is about more than taking what we run online and putting it on paper. With a newspaper, we are able to hold the material, tangible product of our work; we can see it scattered across dining hall tables, on the newsstands outside of the student center. Most importantly, it can reach the hands of our readers, of our friends, colleagues, professors, and staff, regardless of their ability to access our content online.

In print, we present a collection of stories and photos written by a collection of students, curated within twelve, thin pages that bear witness to the actions of those around us and provide a capsule of a point in time — of this particular point in time.

And at a time when many of us are relearning what it means to be a Middlebury student, we're relearning what it means to be a community newspaper at Middlebury.



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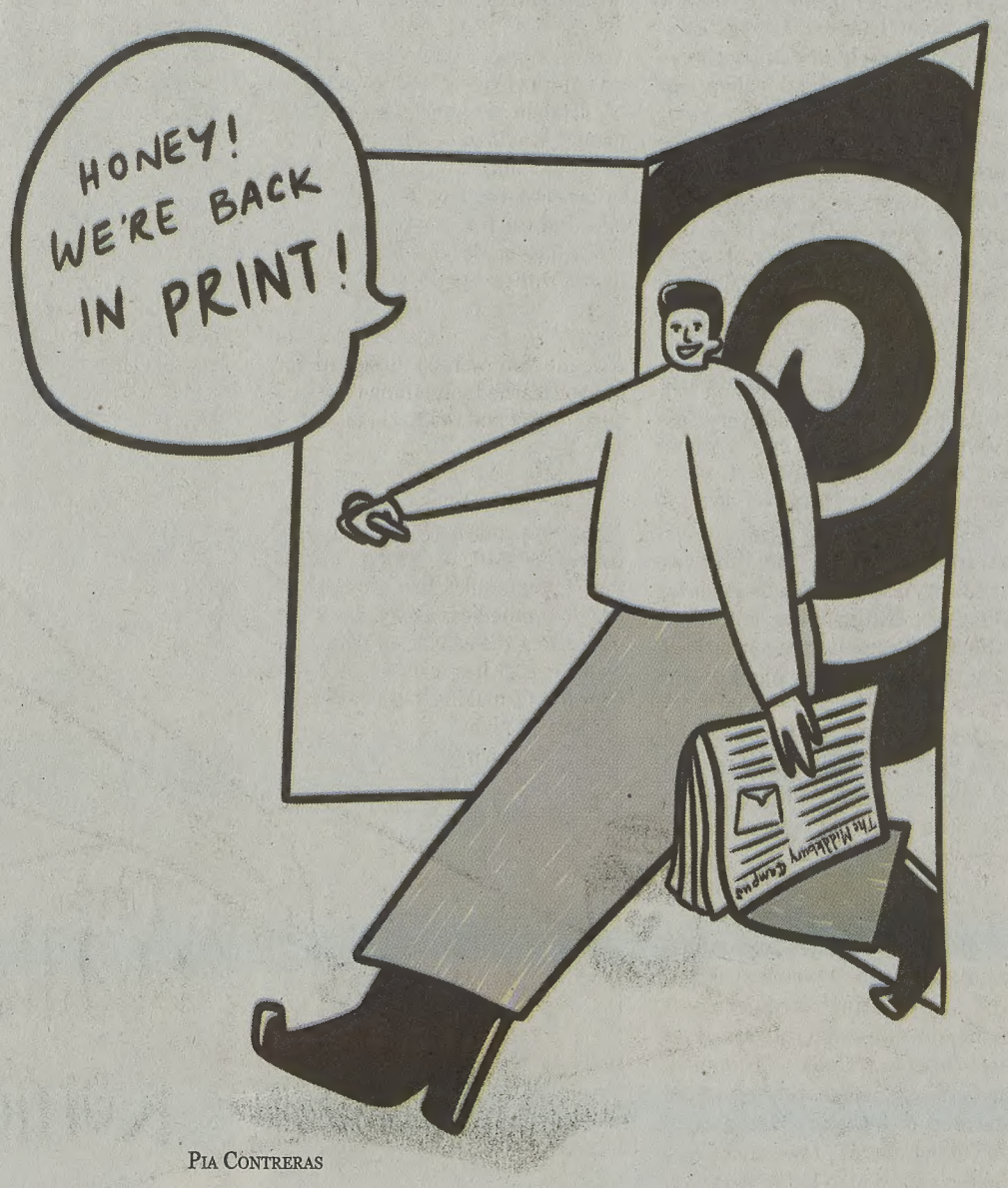


PIA CONTRERAS

Twenty Minutes, Twenty Years

My Reflection on 9/11 as a New Yorker and Muslim-American

notes from the desk

***Daleelah Saleh '23** is an Opinion editor for The Campus.*

My mom FaceTimed me last Saturday, joking that I should call up my dad and brother and remind them that I'm the only reason either of them are alive right now. We laughed about it, but it felt heavy.

I know — more than most — what it would have been like to lose someone on 9/11. At the time of the attacks, my dad was working in an office on the 70th floor of the World Trade Center. The story goes that he and my mom had stayed up the night before attending a birthing class. Because of this, my dad slept through his alarm and left twenty minutes late for work. Sometimes, running late is lucky. Sometimes, it saves your life.

> "Sometimes, running late is lucky. Sometimes, it saves your life."

He took his normal subway route, but when he got out at his stop, all hell had broken loose. Both buildings had collapsed. Some of his colleagues were able to make it out, and he walked across the Brooklyn Bridge with them. Others didn't escape in time. Smoke and dust filled the air, and made its way over to 5th Avenue, where my mom was working. She heard about the attacks through a combination of radio and television. Her friends did their best to keep her calm. Cell service had been lost and she had no way of contacting my dad. So she, like so many others across the city and around the world, was left bracing herself for the worst.

My parents eventually made their way home and dealt with the aftermath of the attack together: as New Yorkers whose city was in turmoil, as friends of victims or their loved ones, as Muslim-Americans whose moral compass were being called into question solely on the basis of their religious identity and as expectant parents who would have to learn how to raise their child in the midst of all of this.

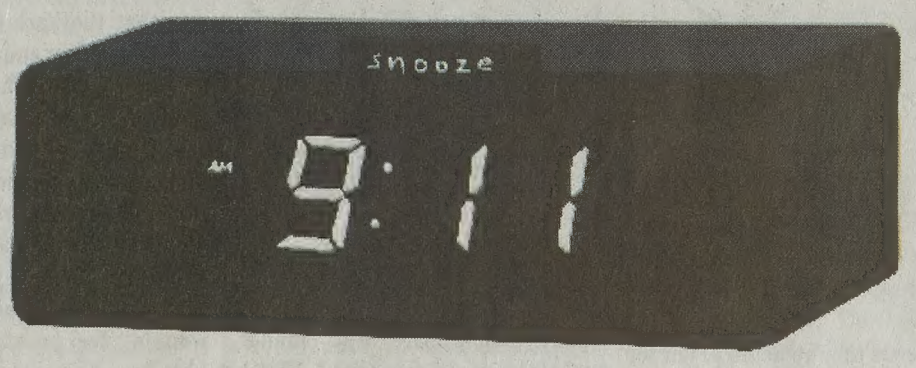
Two years later, my mom gave birth to my brother. And neither of us had to grow up with a shadow of loss hanging over us in place of my father. So, last Saturday, I woke up feeling lucky. A difference of twenty minutes changed the entire trajectory of my life. Sometimes that feels too big to really comprehend.

But it didn't take long for the dread to settle in, as it usually does. 9/11 shaped my life, and continues to do so, in ways that are often much more intangible than the loss of my father would've been.

I'm not always able to recognize how drastically security tightened in reaction to 9/11 because that's all I've ever known. When traveling together, my mom tells us what airports used to be like "in the before time," and my brother and I react with the same disbelief that we usually reserved for fairytales as kids. Walking your loved one right up to the gate without having to go through security or take your shoes off, crying while you watch their plane depart — it's the stuff of movies now, but it was her reality. My reality consists of sitting on cold airport floors, waiting for hours while my mom (or dad, depending on who I'm traveling with) gets questioned by the TSA for being too brown or having a name that sounds too Arab. Freedom of movement is a foreign concept to me, a privilege that I have never been afforded.

There was a presumed sense of safety that dissipated for everyone in the aftermath of 9/11, but especially for Muslims. The Patriot Act isn't some vague piece of legislation, but something that has had very real consequences for my community. I live near a section of Astoria, NY called Little Egypt (on Steinway Street), which is home to a large population of Arab and Muslim immigrants. Steinway was one of the areas that came under police scrutiny. When reading through reporting on their tactics, I saw so many familiar places — our local halal meat store, one of our mosques, some of my favorite restaurants. While much of the surveillance is covert, its presence is still felt. It creates a sense of unease. It's the same unease that follows me around when I am walking to the mosque, in airports and on planes, and in predominantly white spaces. The sense that I am a suspect. Guilty until proven innocent. Terrorist until proven otherwise.

> "Freedom of movement is a foreign concept to me, a privlege that I have never been afforded."



I spent a good portion of my childhood in the library, searching for books where I saw myself reflected as anything else. Through newspapers and TV shows, I learned to see myself through the eyes of people who feared me and what they thought I represented.

Islamophobia is often discussed in the context of "post-9/11," as if hatred against Muslims sprung into existence the moment the towers collapsed. But my mom dealt with it when she was growing up in Philly — just a different brand of it, rooted in Orientalism, as opposed to the War on Terror. Regardless, the rhetoric against Muslims has always been predominantly negative, especially on and around 9/11.

I feel frustrated when I open social media and am bombarded by posts that are, at worst, borderline white supremacist and, at best, solely ignorant. They're usually America-centric, often failing to account for the violence enacted in response to 9/11, both at home and abroad. Violence enacted in the name of vengeance, disguised as protection from a war that America created.

This discourse has started to shift, especially with the recent withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan. But even when we do acknowledge the massive loss of human life that occurred in response to 9/11, it's still reductionist. It's a number instead of people with faces, with names, favorite colors, food preferences and a baby on the way. It's a perpetuation of "other"ing, even if the intention is to foster empathy. Just as I would have wanted my father to be honored in the fullness of his humanity, I want that for every other victim.

I'm turning 20 next month, just weeks after the 20th anniversary of 9/11. And if I've learned anything in the past 20 years, it's how to make space for nuance. How to balance dominant oppressive narratives with my own lived experiences. How to navigate my so-called dual identity — my Muslimness and my Americanness, which have always co-existed for me, but seem oxymoronic to others. How to both mourn the lives lost on 9/11, and all the lives lost in its wake. How to honor other people's grief, while making space for my own.

The Middlebury Romantic

column

***Edyth Moldow '23** is a columnist for The Campus.*

My first love was my home. Mine is the block with the broken sidewalk tiles and the dogs that always bark at inconvenient times and the houses that have seen a century more of the world than I ever could or would. Now, though, I know in my heart — and most definitely in my parents' bank account — I've opened my mind to a new home. And since home and love are synonymous in my head, it seems I've also opened my heart to a new love.

But Middlebury wasn't always a love of mine. There were certain undesirable attributes that Middlebury left off its online dating profile: the emotional unavailability that took the shape of cold spells, the lack of hygiene that was that curious stain on the Battell wall, and the gaslighting which made me question whether it was possible to miss home as much as I did, or if I was simply crazy. By the end of first semester, soon after our relationship had just begun, I was ready to break up. Middlebury was determined to win me over, though, and by our 75th date (J-Term), I began to see Midd in the romantic way I see it now.

As it commonly happens when people fall in love, some of the aspects that drove me crazy about Midd became some of my favorites. Since love is the closest thing we have to magic, Battell had a certain magic to it: the late-night conversations in common rooms, the constant bustle of energy wafting through open doors, and even the bathroom rendezvous were endearing. I didn't know that living with so many people in a tight space or sharing embarrassing moments with someone who hears you talk in your sleep Every. Single. Night. could be so full. These moments can only be described as the type of joy where you feel like your face could break from smiling so hard, of moments where you're staining your friend's shirt with tears or singing happy birthday to another and of brief romances with flames old and new.

Middlebury was resourceful, though, and like in the movies when a person uses their musical talent or cooking skills to woo a suitor, it played to its innate strength: the students and professors. In balancing moments of fun and study, Davis and elevated surfaces, everyone maintains a passionate, open-minded and driven spark to them. They all exude an encouraging, graceful attitude towards the success of their peers. The best example was my freshman year in Chemistry 103. I had been so used to my high school peers asking what scores I had gotten on exams; whether these conversations were competitive boasts or unintentional probes, I was surprised to learn that my Middlebury classmates seemed to be more interested in supporting their friends through the class rather than competing against them. We had study sessions, answered one another's questions, and kept our grades to ourselves — and every class I've taken here since has followed this "collaboration over contest" principle.

After a brief long-distance relationship, Middlebury and I knew we were bound to get back together for The Great Return in the fall, which attracts nothing short of magic itself. Like any good suitor, Midd always welcomes us with a flower bouquet: the rolling green hills speckled with crimson blooms that constitute our beloved Knoll.

And what is romance without a sunset? Middlebury's are sherbet-colored, and you can spend your time on long walks (or rounds of frisbee) on the Beach or share a private moment alone in the woods on the Trail Around Middlebury. Opportunity lies in those 15-person classes about topics you REALLY care about, the ones you research for (gasp) FUN, and in the clamor to ask your professor that question burning a hole in your notebook you've held onto for ages. Bonding with the people you love can be found tucked into the jeans you wear dancing at PALANA or Brooker, on hikes near and far, trips into the freezing Gorge (you think I'm being dramatic, try swimming there sometime), and in the seemingly mundane ventures to the bagel deli or the supermarket or the Best Coffee Shop In the Entire World, Dunkin' Donuts.

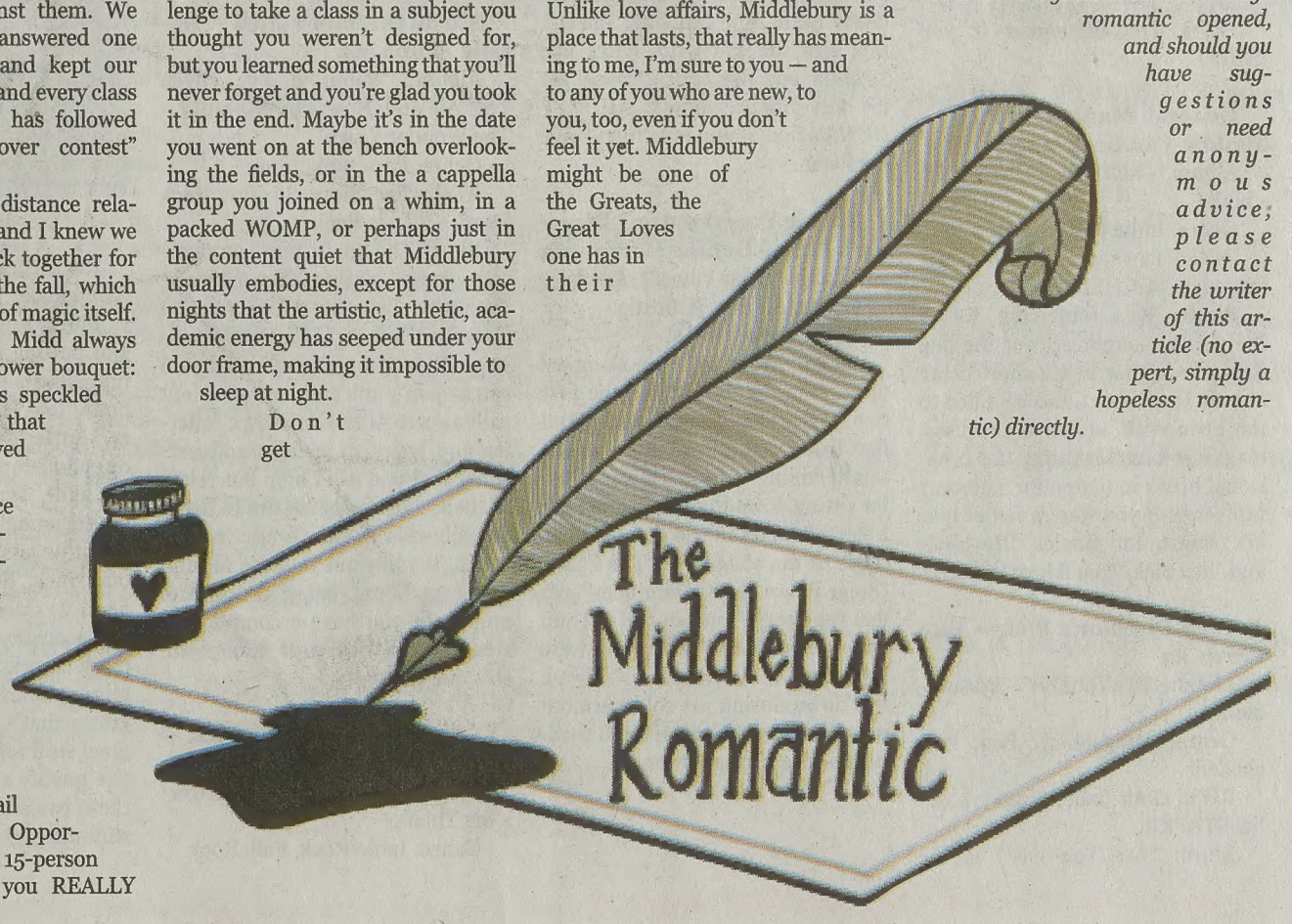
Where does this love, this magic, manifest itself? Sometimes you'll find the magic on the bottom floor of BiHall in the armchairs by the big picture windows where all you can see is sky and cows. Sometimes it's in the class you never thought you'd take (but you really need an art credit and a theater class), where you slow dance with a broom. Too specific? I'll try again. Maybe it's in the challenge to take a class in a subject you thought you weren't designed for, but you learned something that you'll never forget and you're glad you took it in the end. Maybe it's in the date you went on at the bench overlooking the fields, or in the a cappella group you joined on a whim, in a packed WOMP, or perhaps just in the content quiet that Middlebury usually embodies, except for those nights that the artistic, athletic, academic energy has seeped under your door frame, making it impossible to sleep at night.

Don't get me wrong, I've had my fair share of challenging moments at Middlebury. I've lost friends, pulled all-nighters to study for exams, gotten less-than-perfect grades, missed home, had breakups, and felt imposter syndrome more often than I'd like to admit. These frustrating moments, though, helped me grow as a student, a friend and a daughter because I began to see Middlebury, and life, more realistically. Though magical, this campus still has flaws, my days still have ups and downs and, despite and because of these imperfections, I felt more appreciative for the "ups" than ever; my love transitioned from superficial to real.

Though one might not necessarily call this a "romance piece," I would politely disagree. This love affair with a place that has shown me more joy, more confusion, more curiosity and more challenges than I have ever experienced in any other home, is not really a love affair, after all. Unlike love affairs, Middlebury is a place that lasts, that really has meaning to me, I'm sure to you — and to any of you who are new, to you, too, even if you don't feel it yet. Middlebury might be one of the Greats, the Great Loves one has in their life. The Great Loves don't fade, even with time's gentle touch.

Yours truly,
The Middlebury Romantic

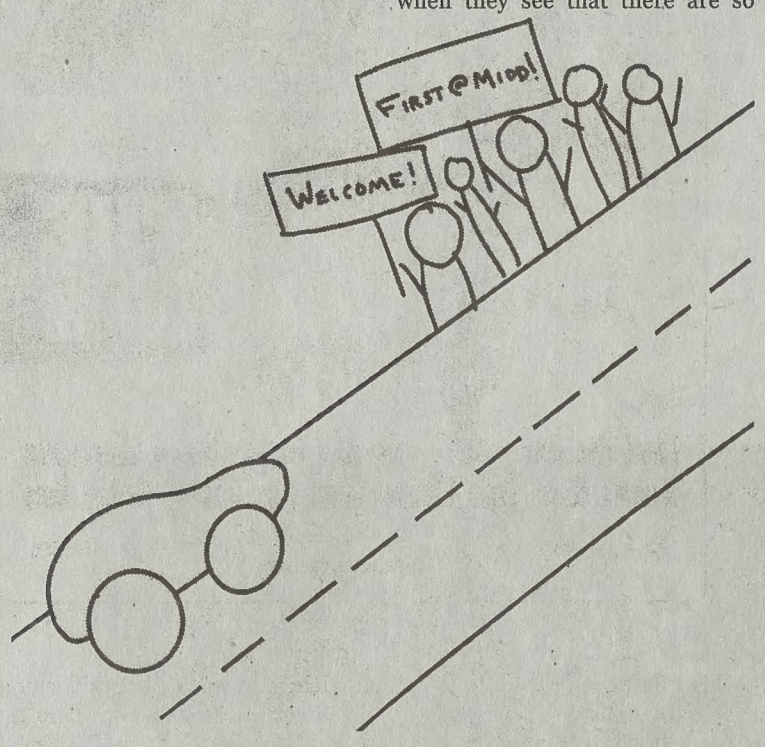
The Middlebury Romantic is a way to open conversation around romance and love in the Middlebury community, in whatever form it might take. People have preconceived notions of what romance is truly like at Midd, like the prevalence of hookup culture or the marriage expectation, yet these notions still leave room for missed connections, confusion and, in extreme cases, heartbreak. Stay tuned for articles on when people say, "I love you," online dating at a small school, horoscope compatibility (Co-Star put this in my "dos" for the day, I don't make the rules), dating archetypes, Atwater romance and romantic comedy parallels to college life. Consider the gates around all things romantic opened, and should you have suggestions or need anonymous advice, please contact the writer of this article (no expert, simply a hopeless romantic) directly.



First@Midd welcomes record number of students

By SUMMER HORNBOSTEL
Arts & Culture Editor

After the strange and difficult 2020-2021 school year, many students are desperate to return to semi-normalcy. While returning students have some idea of what to expect, incoming first years spent their summers in eager anticipation, hoping for the classic college experience they've heard about for years.



But not everyone grew up hearing stories of their family members' glory days in college. For first-generation college students, it can be a lot harder to prepare for and adjust to college life, especially at a small, private institution like Middlebury College. First@Midd strives to change that.

Long-established programs, like MiddView, were ill-equipped to prepare first-generation students for college and do not address the additional difficulties that can come with starting college without having a mentor who has been through it before.

"The program has been growing exponentially since it started six years ago," said Sophia Wittig '24, a First@Midd peer leader. This year the program had a record number of participants. About 120 students took part this fall, double last year's number. Two years ago, there were only about 40 students involved.

"I was glad to see such a large group, because it doesn't make the incoming students feel so alone when they see that there are so many people here with similar upbringings or struggles," Wittig said.

The First@Midd leaders aim to make the transition to the college easier and more welcoming for their group members. They share knowledge about preparing for college life that other incoming students might not have thought twice about, like packing lists, dorm supply suggestions and how to navigate the college's resources. The peer leaders also emphasize to new students that other first-generation students and the Anderson Freeman Center (AFC) staff are available as a source of support throughout their time at Middlebury.

"Arguably most importantly, we also address the social implications of being first-gen here. I know in my personal experience I struggled with the adjustment of just hearing about all the trips and extra curriculars most of my classmates could and still participate in," Wittig said. "I had to work and still do have multiple work studies, but First@Midd helped me realize that I wasn't alone in those struggles, and that I am more prepared for life after Midd."

Wittig expressed how valuable AFC Director Derisa Collymore and Assistant Director Janae Due are to the program and its successes. "They were huge advocates for obtaining the budgeting ... and recognition the program deserves and are still pushing hard to make Midd more inclusive and accessible," said Wittig.

"It can feel like the administration here often dismisses us, but those two made it clear from day one that they are here for every single one of us and willing to help us," Wittig said. "They are also two of the very few to say out loud that we belong here and we deserve to be here just as much as everyone else, and I think if more of the people in charge of making decisions on campus believed that, or even just said it and meant it, first-gens wouldn't feel so afraid and alone here."

Although the program is relatively new, there are already certain activities that have become traditional to First@Midd. "Warm fuzzies" is one of the traditions that have developed. The goal is to make each other feel warm and fuzzy inside by having students write notes of appreciation to fellow group members and others of their choice.

First@Midd seeks to foster a sense of belonging for first-generation students..

"It truly does act as a support system full of amazing people and tries to fill the gaps in access and aid from the college itself," Wittig said.

To kill a bookworm: Book recs inspired by the season

By ANNA WEISEL
Columnist

The leaves are beginning to change in Vermont, and it's starting to feel like fall. I compiled a list of books that remind me of autumn, my favorite time of year to curl up with a cup of tea and a good read.

"Circe" by Madeline Miller

When I think about fall reading, "Circe" is one of the first novels that comes to mind. Although Miller does not specify the season in which it takes place, "Circe" is filled with magic and stunning landscapes, two aspects that remind me of fall at Middlebury. There is an enchanting feeling on campus that is echoed in the book — the time when the leaves begin to change and golden light filters through the trees.

Circe is the daughter of the sun god Helios and the ocean nymph Perse. There's something unusual about her from a young age as she quickly discovers that she possesses the power of witchcraft. This power is strong enough to threaten even the gods, leading Zeus to banish her to a remote island.

Circe is one of my favorite female protagonists. She is strong-willed, independent and resilient. Miller expertly weaves countless well-known Greek myths into this story, making it a very fun read.

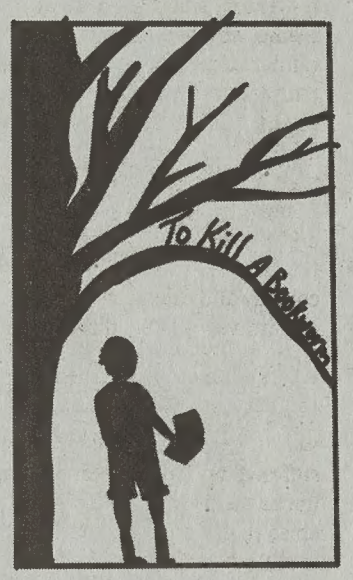
"Writers and Lovers" by Lily King

I love stories that are deeply rooted in a place. In "Writers and Lovers," the city of Cambridge, Massachusetts is tangible to the reader. The novel follows Casey Peabody, a young woman who feels lost as she arrives there in 1997. She picks up a waitressing job and is forced to find her way in a new place with new people.

I found a lot of comfort in this book, making it perfect to curl up with in the fall. Casey has no idea what she's doing, and I read it during a time when I was feeling a bit unmoored myself. Casey is a relatable protagonist, and I appreciated that King does not sugarcoat her experience.

"The Secret History" by Donna Tartt

"The Secret History" is a classic New England fall read. This novel takes place at a small liberal arts college in Vermont, a place that draws many parallels to Middlebury with its intimate classes and beautiful campus. However, unlike its setting, the plot of "The Secret History" is far from tranquil. The tight-knit group of classics



SABRINA TEMPLETON

majors, who are the central figures in the novel, murders one of their closest friends.

I loved the unpredictability of this novel as well as the suspense that grows with each page. It is not a whodunnit story, but instead an investigation into what led to the dire circumstances that are revealed in the prologue. The characters are vibrant and twisted, each carrying their own secrets and demons.

"Sing, Unburied, Sing" by Jesmyn Ward

"Sing, Unburied, Sing" is a Southern Gothic novel filled with ghosts and complicated family dynamics. Jojo and his younger sister Kayla live with their grandparents, since their parents are largely absent.

This is a sad read, dealing with drug addiction, prison and parents ill-equipped to raise their mixed-race children; however, I loved the relationship between Jojo and Kayla, which is both beautiful and heartbreaking. Jojo is forced to take on responsibilities that no child should have to deal with at the age of 13.

The paranormal aspect of "Sing, Unburied, Sing," in particular reminded me of fall. It is rare to find a novel that successfully mixes elements of spookiness with strong lyrical writing, something Ward achieves effortlessly here. I also loved the Mississippi setting.

WRMC RADIO ROUNDUP: Sounds of Summer

By THE WRMC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Have your Spotify playlists become stale? Is your weekly mix just not cutting it? Maybe it's time to branch out and listen to something new. The Executive Board of WRMC, Middlebury College's radio station, has selected a wonderfully wide range of albums, spanning time and genre, for your listening pleasure. Check out these recommendations and let the sounds of summer carry you through the semester.

*RIYL (recommended if you like)

General Manager's Pick — Maddie Van Beek '22.5

Album: "MOTOR FUNCTION" - binki

Genre: Indie Pop, Hip Hop

RIYL: PawPaw Rod, JAWNY, austenyo, MICHELLE

Blurb: This four-track EP is the perfect soundtrack for the dog days of summer. It's a short listen at only 10 minutes, and it's filled to the brim with addictive choruses, magnetic basslines and the occasional break in tempo for a gloomy rap verse. If you were a fan of binki's smash hit singles "Heybby!" and "Sea Sick," you'll love this EP.

Tech Director's Pick — Dan Frazo '23

Album: "Are You Ok?" - Wasuremono

Genre: Atmospheric Pop, Psychedelic,

RIYL: Goth Babe, pizzagirl, Arlie, STRFKR

Blurb: "Are You Ok?" is the perfect album to listen to as you fall asleep in the sun. Put a drink in your hand, throw on some sunglasses, and let Wasuremono take you on a ride through the best parts of summer. Driven by steady, kindly mixed melodies, the English four-piece produces nothing if not easy listening.

Concerts Manager's Pick — Luke Robins '23

Album: "a liquid breakfast" - AUDREY NUNA

Genre: Hip Hop, Hyper-Pop

RIYL: 100 Gecs, Rico Nasty, Remi Wolf, Tkay Maidza

Blurb: Over-saturated beats, self-confidence to the extreme and funny lyrics. She can sing, she can rap, and she can write lyrics like "Jibbitz out the Crocs 'cause get it? I'm mature now." AUDREY NUNA's first album is so fun — give it a listen.

Spring Programming Director's Pick — Gennie Herron '23

Album: "Solar Power" - Lorde

Genre: Alt Pop, Acoustic

RIYL: Lorde, HAIM

Blurb: At first I was skeptical of this new album. I liked the first two singles she released, but when I first listened to the album, I wasn't totally vibing with it. However, after sitting down to really listen to it, I started to get in the groove. Plus, some of the songs like "The Path," "Solar Power" and "Dominoes" just feel summery. You can feel the sun on your skin and wish you were breathing in salty sea air. If you feel down during the cold Vermont months, I would recommend turning back to "Solar Power."

Music Director's Pick — Chad Kim '23.5

Album: "Yol" - Altin Gün

Genre: Turkish, Psych Folk, Funk

RIYL: Kikagaku Moyo, Los Bitchos, Allah-Las, KGLW

Blurb: Going off to a distant land of eternal sunshine boogie? Well, "Yol" by Altin Gün will hypnotize you with its savory melodies and barrels of funk as you meander through the kingdom of the sun. This album demonstrates a collection of continuously evolving tracks that stay fresh in the heat and make watching and smiling at the sun all the more beguiling.

Music Director's Pick — Natalie Penna '24

Album: "Suburbia I've Given You All and Now I'm Nothing" - The Wonder Years

Genre: Pop-punk, Emo

RIYL: The Story So Far, Neck Deep, Knuckle Puck

Blurb: Though its tenth anniversary passed earlier this summer, "Suburbia I've Given You All and Now I'm Nothing" is a timeless album. It is packed with loud and catchy pop-punk anthems, constant callbacks to Allen Ginsberg's America and lyrics so specific and personal that you can't help but relate to them. Besides being fun to listen to, Suburbia is an exercise in nostalgia. If you want to drive around to songs about being young and stupid, or you have a complicated relationship with your hometown, this one's for you.

Concerts Manager's Pick — Yardena Carmi '23

Album: "Little Things/ Sparrow" - Big Thief

Genre: Indie Rock, Folk Rock

PIA CONTRERAS

RIYL: Sharon Van Etten, Alex G, Campdogzz

Blurb: Big Thief has recently begun putting out new songs for the first time since their hit 2019 album "Two Hands." The EP's opener "Little Things," signals a new direction for the folk group. Over its light, synthy beat, lead singer Adrianne Lenker croons softly about obsessive infatuation. " Second track "Sparrow," on the other hand, is classic Big Thief — earthy and acoustic, with the band's trademark cryptic lyrics and rootsy jamming. An exciting release from a group that's already been making great stuff for years, the contemplative quality and emotional range of these two songs are perfect for late summer nights.

Fall Programming Director's Pick — Jose Morales '22

Album: "Cinema" - The Marias

Genre: Indie Pop

RIYL: No Vacation, Gus Dapperton, Boy Pablo, Her's

Blurb: "CINEMA" is an album I returned to throughout the summer because it is smooth, relaxing and sweet. The album explores the fallout of a relationship, with tracks reflecting its various stages and emotions. The production and instrumentals are soft but carry depth, and Maria's vocal performances create a warm and calming experience. "Un Million," "Little by Little" and "Calling U Back" are some of my favorite tracks. I recommend this album if you're looking for an evening jam.

Reel Critic: "The Suicide Squad"

By JACK TORPEY
Contributing Writer

David Ayer's 2016 film "Suicide Squad" was a failure of cinematic creativity. Awkwardly-written, sloppily-paced and with scenes stitched together as if at random, the comic book film attempted to capture the playfulness of the Marvel Cinematic Universe and the dark gravitas of Christopher Nolan's "Dark Knight" trilogy. Instead, it ended up with neither, and the movie was quickly derided by critics for its futile reach for both comedy and drama.

Five years later, director James Gunn has delivered a new film adaptation of the DC comics brand, brazenly titled "The Suicide Squad," that sidesteps the identity crisis suffered by its predecessor for an unabashedly fun take on a franchise that is a perfect match for the singularly outrageous vision of the filmmaker.

"The Suicide Squad" follows a group of imprisoned supervillains who are recruited by government official Amanda Waller (played by a ruthless Viola Davis) to complete a so-called suicide mission in exchange for a 10-year reduction of their prison sentences. Their goal is to infiltrate Corto Maltese Island and destroy all evidence of what is known only as Project Starfish.

The roster of mostly second-rate characters from the comics is led off by Bloodsport (Idris Elba), the world's most lethal marksman; Harley Quinn (Margot Robbie), a murderous sociopath who has become the star of the franchise; and Peacemaker (John Cena), an extremist willing to commit acts of brutal violence in the name of peace. Other featured characters, such as a walking-and-talking great white shark and a man who can dispel lethal polka dots from his body, are just as obscure. Gunn is once again at work making stars out of unknowns in the same way he did for Marvel's hit "Guardians of the Galaxy."

Gunn wastes no time in establishing his film as a much more spontaneous experience than the painfully self-serious 2016 version. A comically violent red herring opens the film, completely disorientating the audience in preparation for the gleeful chaos that unfolds once the surviving members of the Suicide Squad land on Corto Maltese. It is here that King Shark has to be talked out of eating his friends, Bloodsport and Peacemaker compete to kill enemies as creatively as possible and Harley Quinn escapes from and then massacres her captors as CGI flowers explode from their bloodied bodies.

These moments are played for dark laughs, but the real surprise of "The Suicide Squad" — and what truly elevates it above the 2016 film — is how it manages to layer real emotional stakes into the playful mayhem. In one instance, Ratcatcher 2 (Daniela Melchior) begins to cry while telling the team about the love she shared with her lost father. It is then genuinely moving to see her discover a sense of purpose in the film's climax, which was something her father promised that she would find. Even something as seemingly ridiculous as an undisguisable King Shark waiting alone in a van as his friends try to blend in at a club earns the character compassion from the audience. These moments of pathos amidst the outrageous action prove the film's ability to actualize the dual tonality that the original strove for in vain.

The film owes its success to the creative license that Gunn held over the project. Working from his own original screenplay with a $185 million budget and having been granted complete creative control by Warner Bros., he was able to inject all of his signature filmmaking tendencies into this film. If has his edgy but likeable characters, his hyper-stylized action and colorful visual effects, his unexpectedly emotional storytelling and, to top it all off, a healthy dose of gratuitous violence and profanity. Together, these features produce a newest Suicide Squad movie that is completely and appropriately over-the-top.

Within this efficient execution of the Suicide Squad mythos, there are a few features that deserve individual recognition. For one, Idris Elba is excellent as Bloodsport. An early scene, in which Elba gets into a fervent shouting match with his on-screen daughter, showcases the actor's intense dramatic talents. He displays his comedic prowess when Bloodsport is forced to reveal his rat phobia while surrounded by Ratcatcher 2's army of rodents, and in the concluding battle, Elba shows off his leading-man persona when he rallies his team against an extra-terrestrial enemy. This last moment provides the film with its most moving sequence. Bloodsport finds the good in himself that he denied existed, and the Suicide Squad, a team of villains, takes a triumphant hero's stand to save Corto Maltese. It is enhanced by John Murphy's propulsive score, which never sounds better than when Bloodsport constructs his rifle to the beat of a pulsating electric guitar.

A bright, colorful mix of digital and practical effects displayed on a large 1.90:1 aspect ratio makes "The Suicide Squad" a visual delight. In fact, everything about this film is a delight. It won't win Best Picture; it is not the seminal superhero masterpiece that was "The Dark Knight," but it sure is a blast to watch. To steal a line from that other DC Comics film, this was the Suicide Squad movie that we needed and deserved.

A Midd-summer night's dream

By EMILY HOGAN
Staff Writer

In between semesters, many students chose to spend their summers on campus, providing the perfect chance to enjoy Middlebury without having to endure the harsh weather and harsher workload. After being online during the summer of 2020, many of the Middlebury Language Schools were back in person this year, making campus all the more vibrant with multilingual students. Many students also chose to work on campus, helping to keep the campus up and running over the summer, whether it was at the gym, the library or the dining hall.

Reika Herman '24 attended the French language school for the majority of the summer. Herman spent her time diligently studying French, taking up to four classes each weekday. In addition to studying, she was a participant in the French School Choir.

"Weekends were mostly spent in town with other French students or going to the French school dances at Wilson Hall," Herman said. She was one of more than a hundred Language School students to call the Middlebury campus home for the summer.

In addition, some students stayed on campus due to travel restrictions or logistical difficulties that barred them from international travel.

One such student was Angela Izi '24. Izi worked five times a week in Proctor Dining Hall, serving language school students from late June, when the program started, until it ended August 13.

"I had a great time just meeting the nice people that were there and being able to help the language students that were on campus," she said.

For Izi, summer at Middlebury meant time to explore and become more familiar with a place that she had not fully gotten to know.

"I didn't have any host family. Because of Covid, we never really got to do that for international students," Izi said.

She used her time on campus this summer to become more acclimated to the college. Izi also had free time to explore the town of Middlebury and the surrounding area, something she was not able to do this past year because she studied remotely in the fall and was too busy in the spring.

"I managed to find a circle of friends that I hung out with the whole summer, and we did a lot of exploring around Midd," she said.

The group spent their time biking to the East Middlebury Gorge and down Weybridge Street. Izi was also able to explore Burlington for the first time.

Other students used time over the summer to gain experience working and volunteering. Abed Abbas '24 stayed on campus over the summer due to the present economic and political circumstances back home in Lebanon.

"I wanted to make use of the summer to grow and get some experience," he said.

Abbas worked as a student intern in the Disability Resource Center and as a lab assistant in the stock room of Bicentennial Hall. In addition to working forty hours a week, Abbas volunteered to work in Assistant Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience Clarissa Parker's lab for ten hours a week, helping with research on the effects of withdrawal on mice.

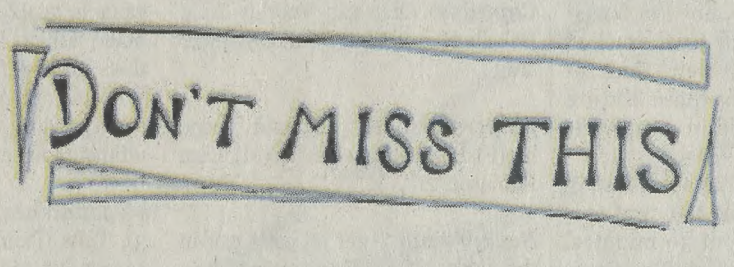
Abbas experienced an ever-changing social scene that was unlike the past school year.

"It was kind of boring at the beginning, as not everyone was here yet," he said. But once the language school students arrived on campus in mid-June, the campus was much more vibrant.

"It was much easier to focus on the close relationships and friendships after the work is done, which was totally different than last semester," he said.

For some students who spent their summer at Middlebury, it was time to explore the area and focus on gaining non-academic experiences, while others devoted themselves to language learning or work while getting to know Vermont and the campus better.

Pia Contreras



Hirschfield International Film Series: "The Rescue"
This 2021 National Geographic documentary chronicles the dramatic 2018 rescue of 12 Thai boys and their soccer coach, trapped deep inside a flooded cave.
Saturday, September 18 at 3:00 and 8:00 PM at Axinn 232 and streaming.

Officer Clemmons: A Reading and Book Signing with Dr. François S. Clemmons
Hear Middlebury singer, author, and celebrity François Clemmons read from his debut memoir, now out in paperback. Followed by a book signing in the lobby.
Wednesday, September 22 at 7:00 PM at the MAC, Robison Hall and streaming.

Costume Shop Sale!
The Department of Theatre's costume shop presents a huge sale of gently used and vintage garments/costumes. For $5, fill a bag with items for your wardrobe, Halloween, or upcycling!
Sat. 9/18 and Sun. 9/19, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM at the MAC.

Fall sports: Season previews

By BLAISE SIEFER, SAM LIPIN, CHARLES CROUNSE AND JOSH ROSENSTEIN

Katie Murphy '23, a captain for women's golf, is a key returner this fall. COURTESY OF WILL COSTELLO

SIEFER'S SCOOP PODCAST RETURNS FOR SECOND SEASON

By BLAISE SIEFER
Senior Sports Editor

Hello Middlebury sports fans! I'm pleased to announce that, for the second consecutive year, I'll be hosting the Siefer's Scoop podcast for The Campus.

I began this podcast series last academic year, when I interviewed a different varsity athlete each week. I asked athletes about their beginnings with athletics, their path to Middlebury, and their current experience as an athlete at the College, among other things. I released 19 episodes throughout the fall and spring, with athletes from 18 different varsity teams (a little over half of Middlebury's 31 athletic programs) represented on the podcast.

This year, I'm shifting the focus of the podcast from current student-athletes to alumni — specifically, alumni who played on a varsity sports team at Middlebury. I don't have a strict set of criteria for guests, but I'm focusing on alumni who have excelled athletically after their time at Middlebury, and/or those who are changing the world in a captivating line of work.

I will be releasing episodes every other week this fall, and episodes will run about 30 minutes. You can find them on The Campus' website, Spotify and many other listening platforms. The first episode of the fall will be released next week! (And you won't want to miss it.)

'Til then, stay well, and Go Panthers!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO LISTEN TO THE SIEFER'S SCOOP PODCAST ON SPOTIFY.

Women's golf

Head coach: Bill Mandigo (33 years at Midd)

Captains: Maddy Cordeiro '23, Katie Murphy '23

Players to watch for: Audrey Tir '25, Kayla Li '23, Jacqueline Slinkard '24

Background: Women's golf didn't have the best of seasons last spring, finishing fourth among five teams in the 2021 NESCAC Championship. There are positives to take away from last semester, though, including the play of captain Katie Murphy '23. Last spring, Murphy led the Panthers in finishes in every tournament. With her paving the way, how far can the Panthers go? Are there any first-year players who can step in and immediately compete for a top spot?

Key matches: George Phinney Classic (Home; Sept. 18–19), Williams Invitational (Away; Oct. 2–3)

The Middlebury women's golf team kicked off their season last weekend at the Hamilton Invitational at Yahnundasis Golf Club in New Hartford, New York. The opener was the first of five tournaments of the fall season.

The Panthers are also excited to travel together as a team in a more normal manner as far as Covid-19 restrictions are concerned. The players still get tested every Monday, and remain cautious when interacting with other teams, but their travel schedule is that of a typical season.

Besides the tournament at home next weekend, the NESCAC qualifiers on October 9 and 10 are marked on all the players' calendars. The top four teams qualify for the NESCAC Championships in the spring, and the winner gets the privilege of hosting the tournament.

"We are so beyond grateful and just so pumped to be able to compete this season," Murphy and Cordeiro said in an interview with The Campus. "There is still a lot of uncertainty in the world, so [we are] thankful Midd and the NESCAC did everything possible to make this happen."

Women's field hockey

Head coach: Katharine DeLorenzo (20 years at Midd)

Captains: Isabel Chandler '21.5, Danielle Brown '21.5, Erin Nicholas '22

Players to watch for: Katie George '23 (F), Grace Harlan '22.5 (GK), Meg Fearey '21.5 (D)

Background: Is there a better D-3 women's field hockey team in the nation? The answer is probably no. Women's field hockey has won the NCAA National Championship the past three seasons — 2017, 2018 and 2019 — and return a core group of top players. It would be silly to bet against this team in any game this season.

Key matches: Bowdoin (Home; Sept. 18), Tufts (Home; Oct. 10), Williams (Away; Oct. 26)

Women's soccer

Head coach: Peter Kim (17 years at Midd)

Captains: Eliza van Voorhis '21.5, Isabelle Hartnett '21.5, Simone Ameer '21.5

Players to watch for:Fanny Lodge '24 (F), Elizabeth Peebles '23 (M), Eliza Robinson '21.5 (M)

Background: After an early exit in the 2019 NCAA Tournament, how well can women's soccer respond this year? They are a perennial juggernaut, last making the NCAA Championship game in 2018, when they fell in dramatic fashion to Williams. The Panthers will have firm tests against Tufts, Williams, and Amherst this fall, which could go a long way in determining the ultimate course of their season.

Key matches: Amherst (Home; Oct. 3), Tufts (Home; Oct. 10), Williams (Away; Oct. 26)

Men's soccer

Head coach: Alex Elias '08 (6 years at Midd)

Captains: Liam Sloan '22.5, Raffi Barsamian '21.5, Michael McFarlane '22

Players to watch for: Ryan Grady '23 (GK), Jordan Saint-Louis '24 (F), Ben Powers '23 (M), Brandon Reid '21.5 (F)

Background: Men's soccer hasn't finished atop the NESCAC since 2008 — could this finally be the year that breaks that streak? The team would need to get past the likes of Tufts, Amherst and Connecticut College first, which won't be an easy task. But there is a lot of promise among the first-year and sophomore classes, and the Panthers have no shortage of experience; Liam Sloan '22.5, Raffi Barsamian '21.5 and Michael McFarlane '22 are all All-NESCAC caliber players when healthy. Don't bet against men's soccer turning a few heads this season. .

Key matches: Connecticut College (Away; Oct. 2), Amherst (Home; Oct. 3), Tufts (Home; Oct. 10)

Men's football

Head Coach: Bob Ritter (26 years at Midd)

Captains: Gordon Pollock '22, Will Jernigan '21.5, Jack Pistorius '21.5

Players to watch: Zander Bailey '21.5 (LB), Jimmy Connell '21.5 (TE)

Background: In their last full season in 2019, Middlebury football dominated the field, going 9–0 and winning the NESCAC Championship. However, their games were not won by huge margins, with five games ending in a one-score lead. As players return from their semesters off due to Covid-19 and a large freshmen class steps onto the field, will Middlebury once again prevail as champs?

Key Matches: Williams (Away; Sept. 18), Hamilton (Away; Nov. 6), Tufts (Home; Nov. 13)

Men's golf

Head coach: Bill Beaney (34 years at Midd)

Players to watch for: Colin McCaigue '24, Anthony King '23, Sean McGarrity '23, Hogan Beazley '23, KJ Dieker '22

Background: Men's golf won the NESCAC Championship last spring, giving them some momentum ahead of this season. The Panthers will certainly miss the contributions of recently graduated captain Jordan Bessalel '21, the reigning NESCAC Player of the Year, but the team has the pieces to restock the lineup. One key player will be Hogan Beazley '23—the junior was an All-NESCAC First Team player last year.

Key matches: Williams Fall Invitational (Away; Sept 18–19), Sap Bucket Challenge (Away; Oct 12)

Men's golf opened its season this past weekend with a home match against 22 other teams, with the Panthers taking fourth over the course of the two-day event. Beazley took home the individual honors with an impressive score of 140 over the two 18-hole rounds, finishing a comfortable three strokes ahead of second place.

The team will turn to their returning seniors for leadership this year, with Phin Choukas '22 and Chris Thompson '22 among those returning to the team after taking the past year off due to Covid-19. Thompson and Choukas were among those competing for Middlebury's first team this weekend, with both set to play key roles this season. Returning NESCAC Freshman of the Year Colin McCaigue also looks set to star, as do Hogan Beazley and Sean McGarrity. The team has also added four first years to its all-star lineup as they look to blend youth with experience.

Men's cross country

Head coach: Nicole Wilkerson (19 years at Midd)

Captains: Quinlan McGaugh '22, Noah Whiting '22

Players to watch for: Drew Donahue '25, Alec Gironda '24, Zander Kessler '22.5, Max Cluss '23

Background: Men's cross country has depth in every class this season, from first -years to seniors. The question is, as usual: How do the Panthers stack up against other leaders in the NESCAC? How well could they do against Williams, a perennial national contender, for example? Middlebury always finds a way to compete, but could they vault to the top of the NESCAC this year?

Key matches: Aldrich Invitational (Home; Sept. 18), Purple Valley Classic (Away; Sept. 25), Connecticut College Invitational (Away; Oct. 16)

Men's cross country kicked off their season this past week with a win at the Maple Syrup Challenge. The Panthers nearly swept the top ten with just three rivals sneaking in in second, seventh, and eighth respectively. Alec Gironda '24 earned an impressive victory in his Panthers cross-country debut.

The team looks primed for a strong year this season, hoping to improve on their third place in the NESCAC back in 2019. They will look to top their sixth place finish in the NCAA Regionals and 29th place at the NCAA Championship.

Captains Noah Whiting '22 and Quin McGaugh '22 are excited about the team's prospects this season. Whiting says the team is particularly excited about the first-year and sophomore classes, all of whom had yet to race a proper college 8k coming into the season. Alec Gironda '24, Peter Burke '24, Drew Donahue '25, Oscar deFrancis '24.5, and Will Lavey '25 all look set to play big roles as part of the up-and-coming cast of untested runners. Other key runners will include Zander Kessler '22.5, who placed 57th at the last edition of the NCAA Regional race, and captain Quinlan McGaugh '22, who placed 62nd at the same race.

The team remains under the leadership of coach Nicole Wilkerson, who has led the team to the NCAA Championship race in every year of her coaching tenure, which spans back to 2011.

Women's cross country

Head Coach: Nicole Wilkerson (19 years at Midd)

Captains: Emily Bulczynski '22, Cassie Kearney '22, Grace Kirkpatrick '22

Players to Watch for: Sophie Nardelli '23, Eliza Broughton '22, Katelyn Peaaese '22

Background: Cassie Kearney '22 has dominated the field during her time at Middlebury, once again doing so when she broke a course record in the 5k at Vermont Tech this past weekend. She leads an experienced team poised to build upon their fourth place NESCAC finish in 2019. Middlebury hosts their only cross country event of the season this coming Saturday at their annual Aldrich Invitational.

Key Matches: Aldrich Invitational (Home; Sept. 18), Connecticut College Invitational (Away; Oct. 16)

Men's tennis

Head coach: Andrew Thomson '10 (3 years at Midd)

Captains: David Vilys '22, Stan Morris '22, and Zach Hilty '22

Players to watch for: Robby Ward '23, Aidan Harris '23

Background: It's been two years since men's tennis competed, as the team didn't have enough players to field a team last spring. After all that time off — and with a relatively new head coach — it's hard to predict how men's tennis might fare this season. Will their senior leadership help propel them to success?

Key matches: Middlebury Invitational (Home; Sept. 18–19), Panther Classic (Home; Oct. 2–3), Wesleyan Invitational (Away; Oct. 16–17)

Women's tennis

Head coach: Rob Barr (interim head coach)

Captains: Brinlea La Barge '23, Amanda Frank '23, Caitlin Neal '23, Nora Dahl '22, Ruhi Kamdar '22.5

Players to watch for: Gena Huang '24, Amy Delman '24

Background: Many sophomores and juniors on women's tennis took the spring semester off — how strong will they return? Also, with former head coach Rachel Kahan taking the head women's tennis coaching job at Yale several months ago, the team enters an adjustment period as they search for a permanent head coach.

Key matches: Williams Invitational (Away; Sept. 24–26), Middlebury Invitational (Home; Oct. 8–10)

Women's volleyball

Head Coach: Sarah Raunecker (26 years at Midd)

Captains: Corley Doyle '22, Maggie Wise '22, Jane Nelson '22

Players to Watch: Laney Sullivan '23 (OH), Gabbie O'Toole '25 (S), Kelly Ferrero '23.5 (L)

Background: After jumping out to a 5–0 start to the season having only lost one set in total, the volleyball team is primed for a big season. The squad went 15–10 two seasons prior, and those sophomores and first-years (five players total) have worked tirelessly to rebuild their team. Senior Jane Nelson '22 claimed she has never been a part of a team as closely knit as this one. The Panthers will look to stay undefeated when they play their first NESCAC opponents of the year this coming weekend.

Key Matches: Colby (Home; Sept. 17), Wesleyan (Away; Oct. 8), Hamilton (Home; Oct. 30)

A coincidence of time and place: How I almost met Lionel Messi

By OWEN MASON-HILL
Senior Arts & Culture Editor

Owen Mason-Hill/The Middlebury Campus

The strength of the bond between Lionel Messi and FC Barcelona cannot be overstated. He joined the team when he was just 13, and has led the club to the pinnacle of domestic and international soccer. When he recently became a free agent on July 1, it scarcely made the news. It was his complete intention to rejoin Barcelona, taking a paycut so that the team could be rebuilt around him. Messi is 34, with the possibility of 2 or 3 contract extensions left in his career.

When Messi became a free agent, I was just about to start my grand European adventure. Like many students, I enrolled in Middlebury with the hope of utilizing their vast network of schools abroad to spend a semester in another country. And when it came time for me to apply to these schools and programs, I did just that. I was set to arrive in Copenhagen in the Fall of 2020, but of course the world had other plans. After deferring to the Spring 2021 semester, I withdrew my application, realizing that it wasn't worth the eight hour flight and the financial burden to sit in a room, staring out my window at an unavailable outside world. Instead of semesters filled with new experiences, foods and languages, I returned to campus for two semesters of online courses, clubs and friends.

After spending two weeks alone in Copenhagen, gorging myself on fried foods and art museums, I flew to Paris for the remainder of my summer abroad.

One day in Paris, I was sitting in my rented apartment late at night, watching the day's Olympic events and medals recapped on the small television that sat in the living room. I had just purchased tickets to a Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) soccer match on a whim. They were $30, and as far back in the stadium as you could go. And I was going to see Neymar da Silva Santos Júnior, Messi's former teammate, and Kylian Mbappé Lottin, a top star in world soccer, pummel whichever team was unfortunate enough to face-off against the Parisian juggernauts. Their season home opener was just days away, giving me enough time to see them play before I had to board the eight-hour flight home.

I picked up my phone and scrolled through Instagram to kill some time before I could go to bed at a reasonably late hour. Just after 9:00 p.m., I saw a post about Messi pop into my feed. He had left Barcelona without a contract renewal. I feverishly went to the Twitter page of Fabrizio Romano, the world's leading soccer transfer reporter. He had confirmed it: Messi was leaving Barcelona. I was shocked, stunned, and energized, like I had downed two espressos. I wanted to tell someone about it — shock like this needs to be shared — but there was no one. I was alone in a foreign country, with no local friends or family. I texted my brother, who was still asleep due to his near nocturnal sleep schedule, but it didn't satiate the urge I had to share the news. I needed to tell someone. So I tested how it sounded out loud. "Messi is leaving Barcelona," I said to my empty apartment. I wanted to run out in the streets and talk with strangers, to see how they felt, but it was night, and I scarcely spoke their language enough to convey the news.

I spent the night flipping through the rolodex of teams that both wanted and — more importantly — could afford to sign Messi. By the time I woke up, PSG had extended an offer. Not only that, they were Messi's first choice. My eyes shot open as I came to the realization that I might have bought the cheapest tickets ever to see Messi play.

Two days later, I was heading to the airport to pick up my girlfriend from her arriving flight, as she would spend the last week with me in Paris before we both returned home. After leaving the airport, my feed was flooded with pictures of hoards of fans just yards from where I had been. They were at the airport to see Messi. He had just flown in from Spain to a hero's welcome. Thousands of Parisians flocked to the airport to catch a glimpse of the man who would bring fame and glory to their team and, for this week, my team.

Before the match, I wanted to get a real Messi PSG jersey. I thought it was momentous to be in Paris when the world's greatest soccer player joined the local team, the kind of story I'd tell my grandkids about. So I ventured to the PSG store on the Champs-Élysées. Before I even rounded the corner to the correct block, a father and son, in matching navy-blue jerseys, passed by. I swiveled to see "Messi" printed across the back. One out of every ten people walking along the Champs-Élysées that day wore a Messi jersey. It was incredible. I had to wait over an hour just to get inside the store — it was a Black-Friday-like rush to grab each and every Messi jersey the store could print.

Messi didn't play in the match I attended; he was understandably taking time to adjust to his new life in a new country before he was ready to make his debut. When we arrived, however, they were giving a special presentation of all the year's new signings. After each one was presented, the anticipation built until finally the Argentine stepped foot onto the field. A hauntingly loud chant of "Messi. Messi. Messi." echoed through the stadium. It was followed by an equally spirited chant of "Ici c'est Paris" (This is Paris).

It was the first time in over a year that it mattered where I was. In a year that was remote, when you could be a student or a friend from anywhere in the world, it never mattered where I set up my computer. I'll always remember the time that I was in Paris when the world's best decided to lace up his boots for this city. It felt like it was my city too.

Spectator's guide: What's going on this weekend for the Panthers?

By JENNY LANGERMAN *Staff Writer* | LOOKING FOR YOUR MIDDLEBURY SPORTS FIX? HERE'S WHAT'S ON DECK FOR THIS WEEKEND:

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18

TIME TBA - Men's Golf Fall Invitational @ Williams
TIME TBA - Middlebury Men's Tennis Invitational — *Proctor Tennis Courts*
10 a.m. - Men's Cross Country Aldrich Invitational — *Cross Country Course*
11 a.m. - Women's Cross Country Aldrich Invitational — *Cross Country Course*
11 a.m. - Women's Soccer vs. Bowdoin — *Dragone Field*
12 p.m. - Men's Soccer vs. Bowdoin — *South Street Field*
12 p.m. - Field Hockey vs. Bowdoin — *Kohn Field*
1 p.m. - Women's Golf George Phinney Classic — *Ralph Myhre Golf Course*
2 p.m. - Women's Volleyball vs. Bates — *Pepin Gymnasium*
2 p.m. - Football @ Williams

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19

TIME TBA - Men's Golf Fall Invitational @ Williams
TIME TBA - Middlebury Men's Tennis Invitational — *Proctor Tennis Courts*
9 a.m. - Women's Golf George Phinney Classic — *Ralph Myhre Golf Course*
1 p.m. - Field Hockey vs. Babson College — *Kohn Field*

WHAT TO WATCH:

On Saturday, women's (2–1–0) and men's (3–0–0) soccer will face the Bowdoin Bears in conference matchups. Women's soccer has proven dominant against Bowdoin in recent years, beating them in the NESCAC quarterfinals in 2016 and 2018. Forward Fanny Lodge '24 is one to watch this weekend — the sophomore has two goals in three matches this season. On the men's side, the Panthers finished their last season of play in 2019 as NESCAC finalists, while the Bears went 6–4–5. Though much of the 2019 squad has graduated from the Panthers, this matchup will surely excite.

Elsewhere, top-ranked Middlebury field hockey (3–0) is also slated to do well in their duel against the Bears. Middlebury is undefeated against Bowdoin in the regular season since 2016, and has shut them out of the NESCAC tournament on multiple occasions within the past half decade.

High levels of play are sure to be seen across the golf, tennis and cross country invitationals this weekend. Two-time cross country All-American Cassie Kearney '22 is one to keep an eye on as she races this weekend, as well as Zander Kessler '22.5 on the men's team.

Other Side of the Line: Proctor Revisited

>> Continued from Page 4

"It's fine. Keeps my fingers nimble anyway," she shrugged, sensing my embarrassment.

Then she told me how she used to be able to crack two eggs with one hand at once. "That was before the fancy machine though. I can't do that anymore."

At 7:30 the students started to come in. While they greeted and thanked the receptionist, most ignored Christina and the other staff. Perhaps the plastic cover and physical distance created an unconscious barrier.

It reminded me of myself, bolting in and out of Proctor five minutes before the start of class, oblivious to the activities around me.

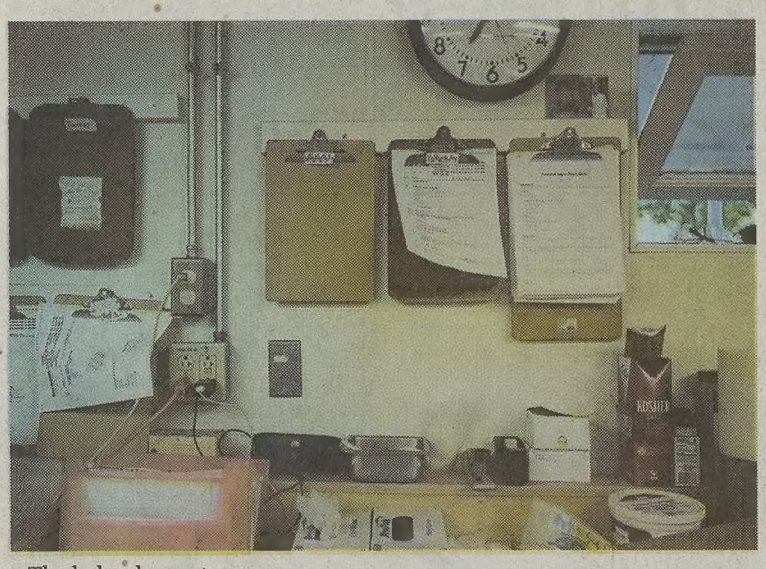
Between cooking and bringing out the food, I chatted with Christina behind the kitchen bench. She told me about her vacation in New Hampshire last week, and how it was her first vacation since her kids were born.

"Zip lining," she said. "I am dead scared of heights, and my husband gave me two choices: skydiving, or zip lining. I chose zip lining."

"I was so scared on the swing bridges," she said. "But I would absolutely do it again."

>> Continue to No. 1

Dan Commins using the huge pots to making soup for lunch.



The bake shop set-up.

Peter, who works at the bake shop, is pointing at the cookie trays.

>> No. 1

I pictured the early fall in the White Mountains, the hills gold and green, and Christina, nervous but giggling, flying above the trees and power poles, hanging by a thread of silver wire.

>> Continue to No. 2

>> No. 2

In her office, chef manager Tammy Iffland peered at excel sheets through her glasses. In the early 1990s, Tammy, who loved cooking as a child, enrolled in culinary school, where she met her husband.

It was a male-dominated field back then, but that only motivated her. "I felt like I had a challenge, and I like a challenge," she said. "When someone says, 'You can't,' I always say, 'You don't know me.'"

"As someone who's always known what she wanted to do and did it, what advice would you give someone who is in their 20s and starting out?" I asked.

"I also have two kids who are also in their 20s," she said. "I'd say don't give up on a dream, even if it feels like it's not obtainable. Don't be afraid to put all your energy into this one thing, and think 'What if it fails?' So what if it fails? There are so many other options."

While I sat and pondered that, Jarrod, another staff member, popped in and asked for a bag of yeast.

"Look in the bake shop cooler up on the left hand side or upstairs in the lowboy," she said, without a second thought.

I laughed and joked that she's the mom of the kitchen. Tammy laughed too and told me that some of her old colleagues still call her "mom."

>> Continue to No. 3

>> No. 3

"There is a camaraderie among the dining staff," she said. "We spend eight hours a day here — sometimes longer than we spend with our own family. So we fight like family, laugh like family, cry like family."

"Thank you Christina," I said, waving before leaving.

"All good. Have a good day," her voice boomed across the kitchen

.

Thank you, to all our dining hall staff, for all the hard work on the other side of the line.